

## 4 Protecting our historic heritage, special character and natural heritage - Te tiaki taonga tuku iho

*Tuia i runga, tuia i raro,  
tuia ki te waonui a Tiriwa.*

Bind the life forces of heaven and earth  
to the great realm of Tiriwa

### 4.1 Historic heritage

#### Introduction

Historic heritage is important to Auckland because it helps us understand and appreciate our history, culture and identity. Our heritage contributes to Auckland's distinctiveness as a visitor destination and to its economic vitality. The protection, conservation and appropriate management of our historic heritage places will help future generations use and appreciate what these places meant to the development of our city. Our historic heritage is unique to Auckland; it cannot be duplicated or replaced. It comprises buildings and structures, archaeological and maritime sites, gardens and plantings, places of historical or cultural importance, including sites and places of significance to Mana Whenua, areas, townscapes, streetscapes, landscapes, and other places of heritage value.

There are two key components in managing historic heritage:

- the identification and protection of significant historic heritage places
- appropriate ongoing use and management of historic heritage places.

#### Objectives

1. Auckland's significant historic heritage places are identified and protected.
2. Significant historic heritage places are used appropriately and owners and the community are encouraged to actively protect and conserve these places.

#### Policies

##### Identification and protection

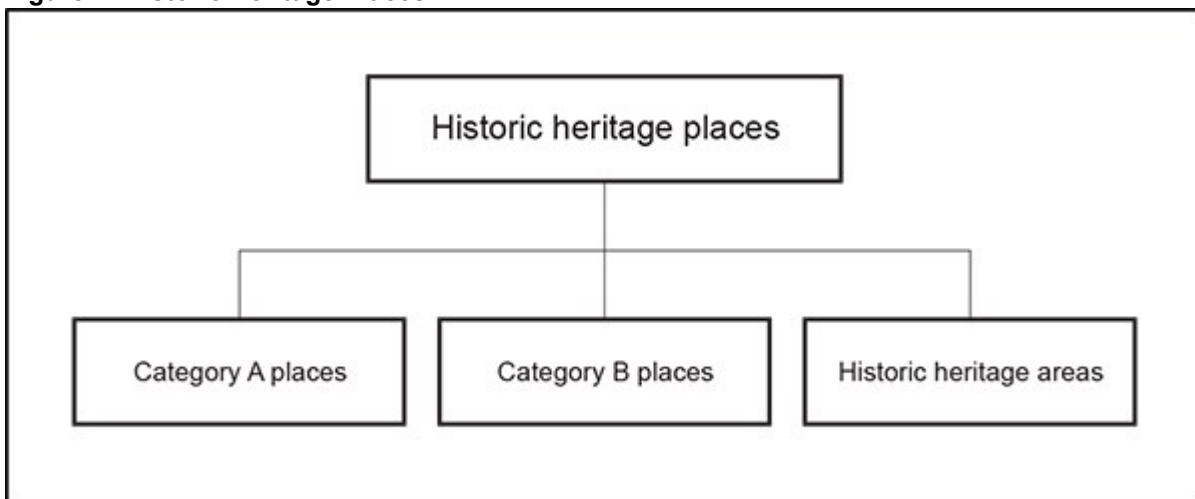
1. Identify and protect Auckland's historic heritage places through a holistic and multidisciplinary approach, considering all historic heritage values that contribute to the significance of a place.
2. Identify a place as having historic heritage value if it has one or more of the following values:
  - a. historical: The place reflects important or representative aspects of national, regional or local history, or is associated with an important event, person, group of people or idea or early period of settlement within New Zealand, the region or locality
  - b. social: The place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, a particular community or cultural group for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value
  - c. Mana Whenua: The place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, Mana Whenua for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value
  - d. knowledge: The place has potential to provide knowledge through scientific or scholarly study or to contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of New Zealand, the region, or locality
  - e. technology: The place demonstrates technical accomplishment, innovation or achievement in its

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structure, construction, components or use of materials

- f. physical attributes: The place is a notable or representative example of a type, design or style, method of construction, craftsmanship or use of materials or the work of a notable architect, designer, engineer or builder;
  - g. aesthetic: The place is notable or distinctive for its aesthetic, visual, or landmark qualities
  - h. context: The place contributes to or is associated with a wider historical or cultural context, streetscape, townscape, landscape or setting.
3. Evaluate historic heritage places for their overall significance against the historic heritage values, and include the places in the Historic Heritage overlay if they are found to be of considerable overall significance to the locality or greater geographic area.
  4. Define the physical extent of a historic heritage place as the geographic area that is primary to the function, meaning and relationships of the place, including a defined area around features where appropriate.
  5. Include significant historic heritage places, including areas, in the schedule of historic heritage places. The schedule has three categories:
    - a. Category A – places are of exceptional overall significance to the Auckland region or greater geographic area
    - b. Category B – places are of considerable overall significance to a locality or greater geographic area
    - c. Historic heritage areas - groupings of inter-related, but not necessarily contiguous, places or features that collectively meet the Category A or B criteria above. Areas may include both contributing and non-contributing places or features, places individually scheduled as Category A or B places, and notable trees.

**Figure 1: Historic Heritage Places**



6. Avoid significant adverse effects to significant historic heritage places. Significant adverse effects include:
  - a. the loss, destruction or substantial reduction of historic heritage values through:
    - i. the destruction of, or substantial reduction in, the physical integrity of the place
    - ii. the partial, total or substantial demolition of features that contribute to the significance of the place
    - iii. the relocation of a primary feature away from its original site and context

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- iv. the loss or substantial reduction of the setting of the place
  - v. inappropriate modifications, additions or alterations, and new development such as structures
  - vi. a lack of conservation and appropriate maintenance
  - vii. the loss of interiors fundamental to the historic heritage value of the place
  - viii. the destruction of, or substantial reduction in, the spiritual associations held by Māori/Mana Whenua and/or the community with the place
- b. the cumulative effect of the loss or degradation of significant historic heritage places.
7. Encourage and support the community and owners of significant historic heritage places to protect, conserve, and maintain the place through mechanisms such as:
- a. covenants
  - b. applying for funding or heritage grants
  - c. obtaining expert advice on the conservation of historic heritage places.
8. Encourage the planning and implementation of new development to have regard to the protection and conservation of any surrounding or adjacent significant historic heritage places.
9. Adopt a precautionary approach to subdivision, use or development:
- a. in areas that may have unidentified significant historic heritage places
  - b. when it is of a scale that may result in adverse effects on significant historic heritage values
  - c. where there is insufficient information available to fully understand the extent and significance of historic heritage values and the effects on those values.
10. Manage subdivision, use, or development when a place of potential historic heritage value is discovered to avoid damage or destruction of the place until the level of significance is evaluated and appropriate actions are determined.
11. Encourage a coordinated approach with Mana Whenua and heritage agencies in the assessment of values of archaeological sites and of the effects of subdivision, use or development on them.

### **Use of significant historic heritage places**

12. Provide for the occupation, use, and adaptive re-use of significant historic heritage places, where this does not detract from the historic heritage values of the place.

### **Methods**

#### **Regulatory**

##### Unitary Plan:

- Auckland-wide objectives, policies and rules for: historic heritage, natural resources - Land disturbance activities and subdivision.
- Zones objectives, policies and rules for: coastal, public open space, rural.
- Overlay objectives, policies and rules for historic heritage.
- Precincts - objectives, policies and rules for residential and city centre.

#### **Non-Regulatory**

##### Non-statutory plans and strategies:

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- Historic Heritage Plan
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan
- Waterfront Plan
- City Centre Master Plan
- Conservation plans for Council-owned or controlled heritage.

### Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and interagency agreements:

- MOUs with government departments and agencies,
- Agreements with council controlled organisations,
- MOUs with Mana Whenua groups and other entities
- Koiwi (human remains) discovery protocol.

### Advocacy, education and Information provision

- Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI) linked to the Council GIS
- GIS-based archaeological alert layers identifying areas where there is a high likelihood of unrecorded or unidentified sites being present
- Land and project information memoranda (LIMs and PIMs)
- Advice notes on resource consents
- Technical advice.

### Monitoring and information gathering

- Ongoing research to identify significant historic heritage places
- Methodology for evaluation of historic heritage significance
- Thematic research framework.

### Funding and assistance:

- Heritage incentives and assistance
- Heritage acquisition fund
- Auckland Heritage Survey: guidance for area assessments
- Guidelines for nominating a historic heritage place for evaluation
- Maintaining council-owned or controlled historic heritage places.

### **Explanation and reasons**

These policies outline a process for identifying significant historic heritage places that is integrated and multidisciplinary in that it:

- considers a range of heritage values
- recognises a historic heritage place can include more than one feature
- takes account of the broad context of the historic heritage place rather than just individual features
- recognises the site parameters of the historic heritage place should reflect the area, function, meaning

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and relationships of the place.

This process has already been used to identify a large number of significant historic heritage places across Auckland and will also be used to assess additional significant historic heritage places identified either through the resource consent process or through identification by members of the public and council.

When a place has been identified as a significant historic heritage place, council has to decide on the best method of management. The majority of places are included in historic heritage schedule, as discussed in Policy 5.

There are historic heritage places in Auckland which have not yet been identified. Policies 9-11 relate to the management of places that may have historic heritage value. Policy 11 recognises that there are opportunities to avoid unnecessarily complicated consent processes by co-ordinating the various regulatory requirements for the management of archaeological sites.

A vital component of the successful ongoing protection of historic heritage places is enabling the appropriate use and enjoyment of these places. The Unitary Plan has been developed to achieve this.

The protection and conservation of historic heritage places is for the public benefit of both current and future generations. Protection and conservation can occur through non-regulatory methods identified in Policy 7, such as greater community promotion, support and involvement in heritage protection.

## 4.2 Special character

### Introduction

Special character areas have collective and cohesive importance, relevance and interest to a locality or region. Special character areas include older established suburbs, settlements, rural, institutional, maritime, commercial and industrial areas, or settlements of special architectural or other character value, the character or appearance of which should be retained and enhanced. In special character areas the maintenance and enhancement of the amenity values and quality of the environment is ensured by controls on demolition, new buildings and additions and alterations.

The special character of these areas results from a combination of attributes such as:

- predominance or groups of buildings of a particular era or style
- a distinctive pattern of lot sizes, street and road patterns
- intensity of development
- the presence of mature vegetation
- the relationship of built form and natural landscapes
- the use of traditional materials and design elements
- streetscape cohesiveness.

There are four key components in managing special character areas:

- identification of areas with special character values
- protection of the overall special character of the area from significant change such as inappropriate demolition, modification and development
- supporting appropriate ongoing use and adaptive reuse to enable effective functioning and vitality of the areas
- a precautionary approach to areas that may have special character value but have not yet been evaluated.

Charater area statements for special character areas are contained in [Appendix 10](#).

### Objectives

1. Special character areas are identified in neighbourhoods and business centres in Auckland.
2. The character of identified special character areas is retained and enhanced.
3. A precautionary approach is taken to the management of areas with a concentration of pre-1944 buildings until they have been evaluated for historic heritage, or special character significance.

### Policies

1. Identify special character areas to retain and enhance places that reflect settlement, development and/or landscape quality over time.
2. Identify special character areas using the following criteria:
  - a. physical and visual qualities: groups of buildings or the area collectively reflects an important or representative aspect of architecture, design and/or landscape or streetscape, or is distinctive for its aesthetic quality.
  - b. Legacy; the area collectively reflects an important or representative a significant period of settlement within the region or locality

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- c. Social; the area collectively has symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value or reflects the identity of a particular community.
3. Ensure identified special character areas are retained and enhanced by:
  - a. requiring new buildings, additions and modifications to existing buildings to maintain and enhance the special character of the area
  - b. avoiding the demolition and destruction of buildings and features that define, add to or support the special character of the area
  - c. retaining and enhancing the relationship between the built form, streetscape, vegetation, landscape and open space that define, add to or support the character of the area
  - d. mitigating the cumulative effect of the loss or degradation of special character values.
4. Take a precautionary approach to any proposal to demolish a pre-1944 building, in areas identified as having a concentration of pre-1944 building stock but not identified as significant historical heritage place or a special character area, where:
  - a. the area may have unidentified historic heritage or special character values
  - b. the demolition may result in a reduction of the areas architectural or streetscape values.

### Methods

#### Regulatory

##### Unitary Plan:

- Regional Policy Statement objectives, policies for special character areas
- Overlay objectives, policies and rules for Special character areas and Pre-1944 Demolition Control
- Special character area statements.

#### Non-Regulatory

##### Non-statutory plans and strategies:

- Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan
- Waterfront Plan
- City Centre Master Plan
- Conservation plans for council-owned or controlled special character.

##### Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and interagency agreements:

- MOUs with government departments and agencies, council controlled organisations, mana whenua groups and other entities.

##### Advocacy, education and information provision

- Auckland Heritage Survey: guidance for area assessments
- Advice notes on resource consents
- Technical advice
- Land and project information memoranda (LIMs and PIMs).

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### Monitoring and information gathering

- Methodology for evaluation of special character places
- Thematic research framework
- Heritage evaluation
- Surveys (Auckland Heritage Survey).

### Funding and assistance

- Special character areas incentives and assistance
- Maintaining council-owned or controlled special character areas
- Guidelines for nominating a special character place for evaluation.

### **Explanation and reasons**

These objectives and policies provide for the identification of areas of special character. They also provide for the retention of the identified character through giving direction about the construction of new buildings, alterations and additions to existing buildings and demolition of existing buildings.

It is recognised that not all significant historic places or areas or special character area have been identified. Accordingly the objectives and policies take a precautionary approach to the demolition of pre-1944 buildings in areas where there is a concentration of pre-1944 buildings.



## 4.3 Natural heritage

### Introduction

Natural heritage comprises the following:

- natural character of the coastal environment – unmodified areas of the coastal environment categorised as areas of Outstanding Natural Character (ONC) or areas of High Natural Character (HNC)
- natural landscapes – landscapes located throughout the rural and coastal areas and categorised as either Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONL)
- natural features—geological sites and landforms, including maunga/volcanic cones, categorised as Outstanding Natural Features (ONF). These features have significant geological and geo-morphological values, as well as a range of other values including, in some instances, ONL values
- trees – either individual or groups of trees that contribute to the cultural and natural heritage values of Auckland
- biodiversity – areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna and are categorised as Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) for land and marine
- the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area – is a distinct and integral part of Auckland's identity. It is nationally significant and requires active stewardship to protect it in the future.

### 4.3.1 Natural character of the coastal environment

#### Introduction

Auckland's growing population, together with the desire to live near the coast, means that land in the coastal environment is highly valued and that use and development has resulted in a loss of natural character values.

ONC areas are the iconic, scenic and wilderness areas where the sights, features, and sounds are those of nature and where man-made influences are absent, or minor and subservient in the context of the natural environment. These areas provide an important touchstone with nature for an increasingly urbanised population.

Areas of HNC value often include rural land used for primary production. Although these areas may lack the same wilderness value as outstanding areas, there is still a significant predominance of naturalness.

Areas of ONC/HNC value are an increasingly scarce and valuable resource. The growing pressures for subdivision, use and development require that priority be given to preserving the natural values of these areas for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

Land identified as having ONC/HNC value may already have been subdivided but not yet developed. If the development rights were exercised it would result in a degradation or loss of natural character values. Providing an alternative location for development rights to be exercised enables the protection of the significant natural values of ONC/HNC areas.

#### Objectives

[rps/rp/rcp/dp]

1. Subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment is designed and located to avoid significant adverse effects on natural character, and to retain the particular elements or features that significantly contribute to the natural character of an area.
2. The natural character of areas with high or outstanding natural character value is preserved, and subdivision use and development is managed to maintain their high levels of naturalness.
3. Where practicable areas with degraded natural character are restored or rehabilitated, and areas of high and outstanding natural character in the coastal environment, including in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and the Hauraki Gulf/To Moana Nui o Toi/Tikapa Moana, are enhanced.

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### Policies

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#### Natural character values of the coastal environment

1. Subdivision, use and development must avoid significant adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment, and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities, taking into account:
  - a. the extent of man-made changes to landform, vegetation, coastal processes and water movement
  - b. the presence or absence of structures and buildings
  - c. the particular elements, features and experiential values that contribute significantly to the natural character value of the area, and the extent to which they are affected
  - d. whether it is practicable to use an alternative location or form of development that would have lesser adverse effects on natural character
  - e. the extent to which functional need, or an existing use, limits location and development options.
2. Promote land use practices and restoration projects that will restore or rehabilitate natural character values.

#### Areas of outstanding and high natural character of the coastal environment

3. Areas of outstanding and high natural character are identified using criteria in Policy 13(2) of the NZCPS.
4. Protect the physical and visual integrity and the natural, and wilderness values of ONC/HNC areas of the coastal environment by:
  - a. requiring subdivision, use and development to be of a type, scale and intensity that will maintain the natural character values of the area
  - b. requiring built elements to be subservient to the dominance of the features, patterns, processes and qualities that make up the natural character values of the area
  - c. maintaining the high levels of naturalness of these areas
  - d. avoiding activities that individually or cumulatively detract physically or visually from the natural character values of the area
  - e. promote land use practices that help maintain and enhance natural character values
  - f. maintaining, and where practicable, enhance Mana Whenua values.
5. Subdivision, use and development in areas immediately adjoining areas of outstanding and high natural character of the coastal environment must:
  - a. avoid or minimise adverse physical and visual effects on ONC/HNC areas
  - b. maintain significant landforms and indigenous vegetation and habitats that are significant elements or patterns in ONC/HNC areas to protect the visual and biophysical linkages between the two areas
  - c. avoid locating significant built elements directly adjacent to the boundary with an ONC/HNC area
  - d. avoid adverse cumulative effects on the ONC/HNC areas of the coastal environment
  - e. avoid adverse effects on Mana Whenua values.
6. Provide for the use of transferable development rights to avoid latent potential for inappropriate development in areas identified as having outstanding natural character value.
7. Exclude ONC areas from being recipient areas for transferable development rights.

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### Outstanding natural character of the coastal environment

8. Avoid subdivision, use and development in areas identified as having ONC value, other than:
  - a. works associated with maintaining or enhancing natural character values
  - b. existing uses and/or where an existing use right applies
  - c. small-scale buildings.
9. Require subdivision, use or development that does need to be located in ONC areas to minimise the level of modification to ecosystems, natural landforms, vegetation and natural processes and patterns through the careful:
  - a. location of development
  - b. design of development
  - c. mitigation of the adverse effects of development.

### High natural character of the coastal environment

10. Require subdivision, use and development to be undertaken outside of a HNC area where there is an alternative.
11. Avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy and mitigate other adverse effects on HNC areas by:
  - a. protecting the physical and visual integrity, and natural processes of the location
  - b. minimising adverse effects on natural values resulting from the location, scale, and design of any buildings, including associated buildings, infrastructure, earth works and vegetation clearance
  - c. maintaining the intactness of significant vegetation areas and vegetative patterns
  - d. maintaining the physical, visual, and experiential values that contribute significantly to the wilderness and scenic value of the area
  - e. maintaining the integrity of landforms, geological features and associated natural processes, including sensitive landforms such as ridgelines, headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes wetlands, reefs, fresh water springs, streams or rivers, and surf breaks
  - f. maintaining the elements, processes, and patterns that exist or operate across the MHWS and connect land in the coastal environment, including processes of sediment transport, patterns of erosion and deposition, substrate composition and movement of biota, including between marine and freshwater environments.

### Methods

#### Regulatory

##### Unitary Plan:

- Regional Policy Statement objectives and policies
- Auckland-wide vegetation management objectives, policies and rules
- Mapping of outstanding and high natural character areas in the coastal environment
- Overlays for mapped areas – objectives, policies and rules applying to zones on land and in the CMA.

#### Non-Regulatory

- Funding and assistance for restoration and rehabilitation of natural character values
- Education and advocacy for land use management practices that maintain and enhance natural

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character value.

### **Explanation and reasons**

Natural character is a highly valued feature of the coastal environment and s. 6(a) RMA and Policy 13 of the NZCPS direct that the natural character of the coastal environment be preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

The NZCPS requires that areas with high and outstanding natural character value be identified, and that the adverse effects of activities on the natural character of these areas be avoided. In all other areas significant adverse effects of activities on natural character has to be avoided.

Outstanding and high natural character areas are a highly valued resource. It is important that use and development of these largely unmodified areas is managed to ensure their values are retained for the enjoyment of future generations. Land within the coastal environment, including some areas identified as having high natural character, are used for primary production purposes. Reasonable ongoing use of this land for existing activities is enabled. Changes that would affect the values of these areas need to be managed to ensure these values are retained in the long-term.

Highly modified areas of the coastal environment still contain elements or features that contribute to their natural character. This may be vegetation, a significant landform, or in areas such as the waterfront, tidal movement and sights and sounds of the sea. Use and development needs to avoid significant adverse effects, and avoid, remedy or mitigate other effects, on the elements or features that contribute to the natural character value of an area.

Use and development on land adjoining areas of outstanding or high natural character can impact on the areas. For example a large residential dwelling adjoining the boundary of a regional park, or other area of outstanding or high natural character value, may have a significant impact on that natural character value.

### 4.3.2 Landscape and natural features

#### Introduction

Auckland has a diversity of landscapes and landforms. Its urban, rural, coastal, and island landscapes provide an important reference point and sense of identity for Aucklanders. They contribute to our quality of life and provide the context in which we use and enjoy our environment.

A number of areas have very important landscape values, and are identified in the Unitary Plan as Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs). New development in these areas should be sensitive to these landscape values so that Auckland retains and enhances its landscape character and quality. Some of these ONLs are within working environments, and this Unitary Plan sets out a management response enabling the productive use of these areas to continue and change in a way that supports their landscape values.

The Unitary Plan also identifies a number of geological and landform features of regional or greater significance as Outstanding Natural Features (ONFs). In combination, these features document the unique geological history of Auckland, the development of its landforms, and the evolution of its flora and fauna. Many ONFs make a very important contribution to landscape and other values, including the maunga of the Auckland isthmus, with their multiple historic, cultural and natural heritage values. These volcanic features are recognised as having international, national, regional and local significance and a strong association with the character and identity of Auckland.

ONFs are vulnerable to damage from new development, and the Unitary Plan promotes the protection of their physical and visual integrity, and the integrated management of their multiple values.

#### Objectives

[rps/rp/rcp/dp]

1. Auckland's ONLs and ONFs are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.
2. The ancestral relationships of Mana Whenua with, and their perspectives on, the landscapes and natural features of Auckland is identified and provided for.
3. The restoration and enhancement of natural features and landscapes, including in the Waitākere Ranges heritage area and the Hauraki Gulf/Te Moana-nui o Toi/Tikapa Moana islands is promoted.
4. The visual and physical integrity and values Auckland's volcanic features that are of local, regional, national and/or international significance are protected and where practicable enhanced.
5. The significant views to and between Auckland's maunga are protected.
6. The multiple values of ONFs are protected and enhanced.
7. The role of existing rural production is recognised in the management of landscape values.

#### Policies

[rps/rp/rcp/dp]

##### Identification

1. Identify geological sites and landforms that are ONFs using the following criteria:
  - a. the extent to which the landform feature or geological site contributes to the understanding of the geology or evolution of the biota in the region, New Zealand or the earth, including type localities of rock formations, minerals and fossils
  - b. the rarity or unusual nature of the site or feature
  - c. the extent to which it is an outstanding representative example of the diversity of Auckland's natural landforms and geological features
  - d. the extent to which the landform, geological feature or site is a component of a recognisable

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group of geologically associated features

- e. the extent to which the landform, geological feature or site contributes to the aesthetic value or visual legibility of the wider natural landscape
  - f. the community association with, or public appreciation of, the values of the feature or site
  - g. the potential value of the feature or site for public education
  - h. the potential value of the feature or site to provide additional understanding of the geological or biotic history
  - i. the state of preservation of the feature or site
  - j. the extent to which a feature or site is associated with an historically important natural event, geologically related industry, or individual involved in earth science research
  - k. the importance of the feature or site to Mana Whenua
  - l. the contribution of the feature to the more publicly valued groups of landforms and geological sites associated with Auckland's volcanoes, coastlines, Hauraki Gulf islands, and the Waitākere Ranges.
2. Identify landscape values of ONFs and ONLs using the following landscape assessment criteria:
- a. the visual coherence, unity or integrity of the site or landform
  - b. the aesthetic value, memorability, expressiveness and legibility of the site or landform
  - c. the extent to which the site can be perceived of as natural, such as low intrusion of human influence, presence of buildings and structures, or landform modification
  - d. the public profile of the site or landform, including shared and recognised values
  - e. the known historic associations in relation to the site or landform
  - f. the value of the site to Mana Whenua
  - g. natural science factors including geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic
  - h. the presence of water including seas, lakes, rivers and streams
  - i. transient perceptual landscape events
  - j. wild or scenic values.
3. Appropriate processes must be followed with accidentally discovered features of potential significance when trenching or excavating in:
- a. basalt lava in the Auckland volcanic field
  - b. organic deposits of pre-European age or greater
  - c. rock strata known to contain fossils.
4. Provide for appropriate rural production activities and related production structures as part of the working rural and coastal landscape.

### Management

5. Manage the outstanding natural features including the volcanic features in an integrated manner:
  - a. to protect and, where practicable and appropriate, enhance their multiple values which may include social, cultural, historic, geological, archaeological, scientific, ecological, amenity, open space, and landscape values
  - b. across jurisdictional, tribal, or ownership boundaries

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- c. to maintain their range and diversity
  - d. that maintains, and where practicable, enhances Mana Whenua values.
6. Enable works and development that maintains or enhances the values or appreciation of the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes.
7. Require urban intensification to be consistent with the protection of volcanic features and viewshaft policies.
8. Manage subdivision, use and development on sites immediately adjacent to ONLs to:
- a. consider its adverse physical and visual effects on the outstanding natural landscape
  - b. protect the physical and biophysical linkages between the two areas
  - c. avoid locating significant built elements directly adjacent to the boundary with an ONL
  - d. avoid adverse cumulative effects on the outstanding natural landscape
  - e. avoid adverse effects on Mana Whenua values.

### Protection

9. Protect ONLs including volcanic features by:
- a. avoiding activities that individually or cumulatively result in significant modification or destruction of the feature
  - b. maintaining, and where practicable, enhancing the amenity values of publicly-owned, historic heritage, cultural, scientific, landscape, and open space. Provision of public access and recreation are consistent with the protection of these values
  - c. maintaining, and where practicable, enhancing Mana Whenua values associated with ONLs.
10. Require activities to avoid adverse effects on outstanding natural features by avoiding:
- a. locating new development on the feature
  - b. destruction of the physical integrity of the feature
  - c. disruption of a process integral to that feature
  - d. the loss or obscuring of the feature through inundation with water or deposition of material
  - e. effects that cumulatively contribute to the modification or destruction of the feature
  - f. a significant reduction in the value of the feature as a result of the inappropriate use or development of other land surrounding or adjacent to the feature
  - g. a significant reduction in the value of the feature in its wider historic heritage, cultural, landscape, natural character, and amenity context
  - h. destruction of, or significant reduction in, the educational, scientific, amenity, social, or economic value of the feature
  - i. a reduction in the value of the historical, cultural, and spiritual associations with the feature held by Mana Whenua.
11. Require alternative methods and locations for carrying out any work or activities considered to avoid damaging ONFs.
12. Legally protect and where practicable and appropriate, restore ONFs when undertaking development and subdivision.
13. Maintain, and where practicable enhance, the overall contribution of the regionally significant volcanic



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features to Auckland's landscape character, including physical and visual connections to, and views between, the maunga.

14. Protect the historic, archaeological and cultural integrity of regionally significant volcanic features and their surrounds to avoid activities that detract from these values and their mana.
15. Avoid new buildings or structures within viewshafts identified in [Appendix 3.3](#) and development above the specified building heights in height-sensitive areas to protect views to and between the maunga.
16. Protect the physical and visual integrity and the landscape values of ONLs by:
  - a. appropriate type, scale, intensity and location for subdivision, use and development
  - b. making built elements subservient to the dominance of the features, patterns, processes and qualities that make the landscape an ONL
  - c. avoiding activities that individually or cumulatively detract physically or visually from the values of the landscape
  - d. maintaining the visual coherence and integrity of the landscape
  - e. maintaining significant natural landforms, natural processes and significant vegetation areas and patterns
  - f. maintaining the visual or physical qualities that make the landscape iconic or rare
  - g. maintaining high levels of naturalness in ONLs that are also identified as HNC/ONC.

### Restoration

17. Encourage the restoration and enhancement where achievable, of ONFs and ONLs where this is consistent with the values of the feature or area.

### Methods

#### Regulatory

Unitary Plan:

- ONF overlay rules
- ONL overlay rules
- Volcanic Viewshaft and Blanket Height Sensitive areas overlays, objectives, policies and rules
- Auckland wide objectives, policies and rules
- Coastal Marine zone objectives, policies and rules.

Bylaws

Other regulatory provisions

#### Non-Regulatory

Non-Statutory plans and strategies

- Open Space Strategy
- Marine spatial planning
- Resource consent guidelines.

Advocacy and education

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- Guidance and advice
- MoU with DOC.

Funding and assistance

Monitoring and information gathering

- State of the Environment Reporting.

### **Explanation and reasons**

Most of Auckland's landscapes and natural features are located in areas experiencing ongoing physical and visual change through:

- changes in primary production i.e. moving from pastoral farming to horticulture or viticulture
- more intensive use of rural areas for a range of non-production activities, particularly countryside living
- transformation from rural to urban uses at the urban edge
- re-development and intensification in urban areas.

These physical and visual changes must be managed so they do not detract from the natural character values of our landscapes and natural features, while still providing for appropriate urban and rural land uses.

ONFs, including the volcanic cones, are finite resources – once they are destroyed they are lost forever, and restoration options are limited. The focus is therefore on protection of values and the avoidance of adverse effects such as buildings, structures and earthworks or land disturbance, that are physically or visually intrusive. ONFs frequently have multiple values which must be considered.

Protecting views to the cones maintains their visual integrity and provides place making landmarks across Auckland. Buildings or structures that are of a scale or location that dominate the local landscape or reduce the visual significance or amenity values of the feature are to be avoided.

Development within ONLs should focus on maintaining the high levels of naturalness within these areas. Subdivision, use and development needs to be carefully managed in terms of its type, scale, intensity and location to ensure that the built environment remains subservient to the natural.

The objectives and policies seek to promote the appropriate management of areas of high and outstanding landscape, geological and geomorphic values by:

- providing criteria to identify areas with these values, and identifying these areas in the plan to provide certainty to landowners and others. Areas identified are: ONFs, ONLs, Regionally Significant Viewshafts and Blanket Height Sensitive Areas.
- requiring that activities which affect the values for which the feature or area is identified are avoided, including through controls on size, height and location of buildings within the Regionally Significant Viewshafts and the Blanket Height Sensitive Areas.
- requiring that appropriate accidental discovery protocols are followed for previously unidentified natural features
- promoting the maintenance and enhancement of the multiple values of the maunga
- encouraging restoration of landscape values and natural features where appropriate.

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## 4.3.3 Trees and vegetation

### Introduction

Individually and collectively, trees represent a significant element of Auckland's natural character and biodiversity. Those located in streets and public open space, are publicly owned. Others are located on private land. Measures are required to identify and protect particular notable specimens as well as those which collectively contribute significantly to ecosystem services including natural hazard mitigation.

Vegetation cover in sensitive environments and in areas of contiguous cover also makes a significant contribution to indigenous biological diversity and ecological services including hazard mitigation. Large areas of contiguous vegetation cover are protected in the rural areas in the Unitary Plan. In coastal and riparian margins, both trees and vegetation are protected from damage and clearance.

### Objectives

1. Auckland's sense of place and identity is maintained and enhanced through the recognition and protection of the contribution of trees and vegetation to our cultural and natural heritage.
2. The contribution of trees and vegetation to the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity, and the provision of ecosystem services including soil conservation, water quality, stormwater control and the mitigation of natural hazards is recognised and enhanced.
3. The retention of trees and groups of trees in urban areas which contribute to neighbourhood amenity and character are promoted.

### Policies

1. Notable trees and groups of trees are identified for scheduling using the following criteria. For a tree to be listed as notable it must meet at least one stand alone criteria or must meet a minimum cumulative score based on all the tree-specific criteria:
  - a. Standalone criteria:
    - i. heritage or historical association. The trees are associated with or commemorate a historic event, have a historic association with a well-known historic or notable figure, have a strong public association, or are strongly associated with a local historic feature and now form a significant part of that feature
    - ii. scientific importance and rarity. The trees are the largest or only example of a species in Auckland, a significant example of a species rare in the Auckland region, a native species that is nationally or regionally threatened, or have outstanding value because of their scientific significance
    - iii. ecosystem service or environmental function. The trees provide a critical habitat for a threatened species population
    - iv. cultural association and accessibility. The trees demonstrate a custom, way of life or process once common but now rare or in danger of being lost or have been lost; have an important role in defining the community identity and distinctiveness of the community though having special symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value; or represent important aspects of collective memory, identity or remembrance, the meanings of which should not be forgotten.
    - v. intrinsic. The trees are intrinsically notable because of a combination of factors including size, age, vigour and vitality, stature and form or visual contribution.
  - b. Tree-specific criteria:
    - i. age and health. The trees are notable because of age, and their vigour and vitality
    - ii. stature, character or form. The tree or group of trees is notable for being an exceptional example of the species in terms of its structure, character and form

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- iii. size: The trees are notable because of the exceptional size for the species in this location
  - iv. visual contribution. The trees make a significant contribution to the visual character of an area or to the vista from elsewhere in Auckland.
- c. Potential negative effects:
- i. human health and/or property. The tree has adverse effects on human health and/or property and the degree to which these can be managed through arboricultural or property management means
  - ii. biosecurity. The tree species is listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a total control or containment plant or listed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as an unwanted organism.
2. Promote the values that trees provide in urban areas and neighbourhoods.
  3. Identify and protect areas where vegetation contributes significantly to the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity and to ecosystem services including soil conservation, water quality and quantity management and the avoidance and mitigation of natural hazards.
  4. Promote the appropriate planting and maintenance of trees on public and private land.
  5. Recognise the benefit public trees provide within streets and public open space while acknowledging the multiple uses of these spaces.

### Methods

#### Regulatory

##### Unitary Plan:

- Auckland-wide objectives, policies and rules for Vegetation management, Trees in streets and public open space, Coastal Environment, Freshwater
- Overlays objectives, policies and rules for the: Notable tree overlay, Significant Ecological Areas, Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding and High Natural Character Areas, Outstanding Natural Features
- Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act
- Covenants (including QE II and Nga Whenua Rahui)
- Consent Conditions

#### Non-Regulatory

##### Monitoring and information gathering

##### Advocacy and education:

- Including education on the benefits of urban trees
- Design guidelines for the retention of trees and vegetation in developments.

##### Funding and assistance:

- Waiving of resource consent application fees for Notable Trees
- Enhancement funding for restoration programmes/planting
- Funding for tree retention programmes.

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Plans and Strategies:

- Regional Pest Management Plan.

### **Explanation and reasons**

Trees have multiple values, including cultural heritage, intrinsic and scientific values. Trees also make an important contribution to amenity values. The objectives and policies above recognise the importance of identifying notable trees and groups of trees that contribute to Auckland's quality and character. Trees that meet the specified criteria are identified in the Notable Trees overlay.

While the council is limited in its abilities to use regulatory methods to protect trees in urban areas for amenity purposes it still seeks to promote the benefits that trees provide in terms of neighbourhood character. The council uses consent conditions and a range of other regulatory and non regulatory mechanisms to achieve this.

Areas of trees and vegetation contribute to important ecosystem services such as soil conservation, hydrological functioning, and the avoidance and mitigation of natural hazards. Areas of native vegetation also contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity. Areas of vegetation are particularly important in sensitive environments such as the coast, riparian margins and on land which may be subject to instability and erosion. The objectives and policies above seek to ensure that these benefits are recognised and protected.

### 4.3.4 Biodiversity

#### Introduction

Auckland's indigenous biodiversity is unique with a diverse range of ecosystems reflecting the complex physical environment of the region. Natural ecosystems and indigenous biological diversity contribute to the character and identity of Auckland and distinguish it from other regions of New Zealand. Auckland contributes significantly to New Zealand's biodiversity with a high diversity of habitats for its size. The special landscape and sense of place that is Auckland is determined in part by the health, variability, extent, and range of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems. Healthy and functioning ecosystems also contribute to improved water quality, soil conservation and carbon sinks, as well as providing opportunities for our recreation, economic, and cultural use.

However, development has impacted on Auckland's natural heritage resulting in loss of habitats and a reduction of biodiversity. Auckland also has significant animal and plant pests that have naturalised and threaten the viability of indigenous ecosystems and species. Urban expansion and development, changes in coastal and rural land uses, and the ongoing degradation from pest species continue threaten the maintenance of our indigenous biodiversity on land.

Coastal and marine ecosystems are subject to change, damage or destruction from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, as well as natural processes. The quality of the coastal environment is fundamentally determined by the presence of a diversity of ecosystems and by their ability to function as biological systems. This underlies the life-supporting capacity of the CMA.

Parts of the CMA have natural and physical values of regional, national and international significance. These areas are vulnerable to the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development and require a greater level of protection than the coastal environment generally. Areas of high ecological value have been identified as Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). The SEAs have been identified using the significance criteria listed below. Sites are significant if they meet one or more of these criteria. The SEAs in the marine environment have been identified as two types of areas (Marine 1 and 2) reflecting the different size and vulnerability of these areas.

#### SEA-Marine 1

SEA-Marine 1 include areas which, due to their physical form, scale or inherent values, are considered to be the most vulnerable to any adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development. They include regionally or nationally rare habitat types, such as saline herbfields, as well as the best examples of saltmarshes and mangroves in Auckland. Some identified SEA-Marine 1 form part of an ecotone (sequence) of coastal vegetation which extends from significant native vegetation on land into saline vegetation and intertidal and subtidal seaweed communities.

Parts of Auckland are of national and international significance as a seasonal home to tens of thousands of migratory wading birds from the arctic and sub-arctic and the South Island, as well as a permanent home to many more birds. The Manukau and Kaipara Harbours and the Firth of Thames are the most important areas, and other harbours and estuaries form part of a regional network of feeding and roosting sites. Other threatened, endangered and more commonplace birds, breed and roost in sand dunes and coastal vegetation, and feed in the adjacent CMA. SEA-Marine 1 status has been given to key roosting areas and to parts of the foreshore adjoining known bird nesting areas.

#### SEA-Marine 2

These areas are of regional, national or international significance that are generally more robust than SEA-Marine 1. Many areas still require more protection than that accorded under a general coastal marine zone as their physical form or inherent values make it more difficult to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment. SEA-Marine 2 include the main intertidal banks of Auckland's harbours and estuaries, which are the key feeding grounds for international and national migratory wading birds. Often these areas surround

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the high tide roosts contained within an identified SEA-Marine 1. Areas of mangroves which are of regional importance because of their size and degree of intactness, or areas of rare or uncommon coastal vegetation such as saltmarshes, have been given SEA-Marine 2 status.

The CMA has not been comprehensively surveyed for the purpose of identifying SEA-Marine. In particular, the identified SEA-Marine may under-represent the significant marine communities and habitats present in the subtidal areas of the region.

### Objectives

[rps/rp/rcp]

1. Areas of significant indigenous biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal environments are protected from the adverse effects of subdivision use and development.
2. Indigenous biodiversity is maintained through protection and restoration in areas where ecological values are degraded, or where development is occurring.
3. The protection and restoration of natural heritage features of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and the Hauraki Gulf/Te Moana-nui o Toi/Tikapa Moana is promoted.
4. Coastal ecosystems and their life supporting capacity are protected, and where possible, enhanced.
5. The relationship of Mana Whenua and their customs and traditions with Auckland's and its biodiversity is acknowledged.

### Policies

[rps/rp/rcp]

#### Identifying areas

1. Identify and protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and the significant habitats of indigenous fauna in terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments as SEAs using one or more of the following criteria:
  - a. representativeness: The area is important for the indigenous habitats and/or ecosystems it supports because they are ecologically representative of the mature and successional stages of the vegetation of each ecological district in Auckland and provide cumulatively for at least 10 per cent of the natural extent of each ecosystem type
  - b. stepping stones, buffers and migration pathways: The area is significant because of its context with other habitats or ecosystems. This includes groups of smaller sites that together form an important vegetation component in the landscape, cumulatively provide critical habitat for a native species, provide buffers to other significant ecological areas or act as stepping stones or ecological corridors providing for movement of species across the landscape
  - c. threat status and rarity: The area supports genes, species, habitats and/or ecosystems that have been classified as threatened with extinction or are naturally rare in Auckland or New Zealand
  - d. uniqueness or distinctiveness: The area supports genes, species, communities, habitats and/or ecosystems that are endemic, or near endemic, and only naturally occur in Auckland
  - e. diversity: The area supports indigenous vegetation that is ecologically diverse, close to the typical species or ecosystem diversity for that habitat or supports indigenous vegetation that extends across at least one environmental gradient.
2. Identify other areas that do or can enhance indigenous biodiversity values, or make a significant contribution to providing ecosystem services, including:
  - a. areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation in riparian margins and the coastal environment
  - b. habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes

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- c. steep or erosion prone areas
- d. areas that make a significant contribution to landscape or natural character values.

### Mana Whenua

- 3. Recognise the relationship of Mana Whenua with Auckland's indigenous biodiversity through engagement on the identification and evaluation of indigenous biodiversity.
- 4. Provide for the role of Mana Whenua as kaitiaki in decision-making affecting indigenous biodiversity, particularly in those areas affected by Treaty Settlements.
- 5. Provide for the cultural practices and cultural harvest where the mauri of the resource is sustained.

### Managing effects on biodiversity

- 6. Manage the effects of activities on significant indigenous biodiversity by:
  - a. avoiding and minimising adverse effects on:
    - i. areas identified in the SEA overlay, particularly those identified as significant when assessed against the 'threat status and rarity' or the 'uniqueness or distinctiveness' criteria and within SEA-Marine 1
    - ii. areas in the coastal environment set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological diversity under other legislation
    - iii. indigenous ecosystems and habitats found only in the coastal environment and which are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass and salt marsh.
  - b. requiring remediation where adverse effects cannot be avoided
  - c. requiring mitigation where adverse effects on the areas identified above cannot be avoided or remediated
  - d. requiring any residual adverse effects that are more than minor are offset through restoration and enhancement actions that achieve no net loss and preferably a net gain in indigenous biodiversity values.
- 7. Manage the effects of activities on other biodiversity by avoiding significant adverse effects, and avoiding, remedying, mitigating and offsetting adverse effects on indigenous species and ecosystem.
- 8. Adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity to be avoided, remedied, mitigated or offset in accordance with Policies 6 and 7 may include:
  - a. fragmentation of, or a reduction in the size and extent of, indigenous ecosystems and habitats
  - b. fragmentation or disruption of connections between ecosystems or habitats
  - c. changes which result in increased threats from pests on indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems
  - d. loss of buffering of indigenous ecosystems
  - e. the loss of a rare or threatened species or its habitat
  - f. loss or degradation of wetlands, dune systems, lava forests, coastal forests
  - g. a reduction in the abundance or natural diversity of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna
  - h. significant loss of ecosystem services
  - i. effects which contribute to a cumulative loss or degradation of habitats and ecosystems



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- j. impacts on species or ecosystems that interact with other activities, or impacts that exacerbate or cause adverse effects in synergistic ways
  - k. significant loss of, or damage to, ecological mosaics, sequences, processes, or integrity
  - l. downstream effects on wetlands, rivers, streams, and lakes from hydrological changes further up the catchment
  - m. a modification of the viability or value of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna as a result of the use or development of other land, freshwater, or coastal resources
  - n. a reduction in the value of the historical, cultural, and spiritual association with significant indigenous biodiversity held by Mana Whenua
  - o. a reduction in the value of the historical, cultural, and spiritual association with significant indigenous biodiversity held by the wider community
  - p. the destruction of, or significant reduction in, educational, scientific, amenity, historical, cultural, landscape, or natural character values
  - q. disturbance to indigenous fauna that is likely or known to increase threats, disturbance or pressures on indigenous fauna.
9. Allow property owners reasonable use and enjoyment of their land through the:
- a. trimming of vegetation
  - b. maintenance of existing open areas including tracks
  - c. establishment and maintenance of a reasonable area of clearance around a building
  - d. the maintenance of lawfully established activities, structures and buildings
  - e. provision of one dwelling per site.
10. Prevent the establishment and avoid the spread of pest species that threaten indigenous biodiversity by:
- a. developing, and providing for, pest management plans and programmes to exclude, contain or control pests
  - b. managing activities such as aquaculture, shipping or moorings and marinas in the CMA to avoid or reduce opportunities for the establishment and spread of pest species
  - c. managing works in the vicinity of kauri, such as deadwood removal or earthworks, to control kauri dieback disease by preventing the spread of soil and kauri plant material.
11. Avoid the clearance or damage of areas of significant indigenous biodiversity for buildings, access and infrastructure by:
- a. using any existing cleared areas on the site to accommodate new development in the first instance
  - b. minimising the loss of native vegetation by retaining all native vegetation within SEAs except where loss is unavoidable to create a single building platform per site for a dwelling and associated services, access and car parking
  - c. designing and locating dwellings and other structures to future reduce needs, such as clearing additional vegetation to provide sunlight or protect property
  - d. avoiding any changes in hydrology which could adversely affect indigenous biodiversity values
  - e. maintaining existing water quality with no increase in the amount of sediment entering natural waterways, wetlands and groundwater

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- f. using techniques that minimise the effects of construction and development
- g. utilising techniques to minimise the introduction and spread of animal and plant pests.

### **Protecting and enhancing indigenous biodiversity**

- 12. Protect and enhance biodiversity when undertaking new use and development by:
  - a. using transferable rural site subdivision to protect SEAs
  - b. requiring legal protection, ecological restoration and active management techniques to mitigate or offset adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity
  - c. linking biodiversity outcomes to other aspects of the development such as the provision of infrastructure and open space.
- 13. Enhance and restore indigenous biodiversity values and remedy, mitigate or offset adverse effects including by the:
  - a. provision of further opportunities for threatened ecosystems and additional habitats for rare or threatened indigenous species
  - b. control and where possible eradicate plant and animal pests
  - c. fencing of significant ecological areas to protect them from stock impacts
  - d. legal protection of significant ecological areas and areas of value to kaitaki and the wider community through covenants or similar mechanisms
  - e. improvement in the ecological quality of areas of indigenous biodiversity in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and the Gulf and its islands.
  - f. development and implementation of management plans to address adverse effects on SEAs
  - g. use, where possible, indigenous species sourced from naturally growing plants in the vicinity of the re-vegetation site, and from places which match the climactic and environmental conditions
  - h. provision of opportunities for the practical expression of kaitiakitang.

### **Protecting significant indigenous biodiversity in marine areas**

- 14. Avoid use and development within the CMA where it will result in any or all of the following:
  - a. any regular or sustained disturbance of migratory bird roosting, nesting and feeding areas that noticeably reduces the level of use of an area for these purposes, or results in permanent abandonment of an area
  - b. the destruction or loss of any regionally or nationally rare, threatened or endangered plant community or indigenous marine or terrestrial fauna, including as a result of any disturbance of the foreshore and seabed
  - c. increased risk to threatened and at risk marine species including Maui's and Hector's dolphins and Bryde's whales
  - d. more than a minor adverse effect on the value identified for an affected SEA-Marine
  - e. the permanent use or occupation of the foreshore and seabed to the extent that the value, function or processes associated with any SEA-Marine are significantly reduced
  - f. any change to physical processes that would destroy, modify, or damage any natural feature or value identified for a SEA-Marine in more than a minor way
  - g. a reduction in water quality which would adversely affect the natural ecological functioning of the area

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- h. the deposition of material at levels which would adversely affect the natural ecological functioning of the area
  - i. greater risk of access and establishment of pest species
  - j. fragmentation of the values of the area to the extent that its physical integrity is lost.
15. Avoid cumulative adverse effects of use and development on the values of the SEA-Marine 1 and 2, taking into account all of the following:
- a. the extent to which existing use and development already, and in combination with any proposal, impacts on the habitat, or impedes the operation of ecological and physical processes
  - b. the extent to which there are similar habitat types within other SEA-Marine in the same harbour or estuary or, where the SEA-Marine is located on open coast, within the same vicinity
  - c. whether the viability of habitats of regionally or nationally threatened plants or animals is adversely affected, including the impact on the species population and location.
16. Avoid structures in any SEA-Marine 1 except for any of the following:
- a. scientific and research purposes or for public education and will enhance the understanding and long term protection of the SEA-Marine
  - b. navigation and safety
  - c. habitat maintenance and enhancement
  - d. where they are of benefit to the regional and national community, including significant infrastructure, and there is no reasonable or practicable alternative location on land or elsewhere in the CMA.
17. Avoid the extension to, or alteration of, any existing lawful structure in SEA-Marine 1 unless it can be demonstrated that all of the following apply:
- a. the existing structure has no significant adverse effect on the values and ecological and physical processes operating in the SEA-Marine
  - b. the extension or alteration does not involve significant disturbance of foreshore or seabed, clearance of indigenous vegetation, or significantly increase the need to dredge in order to obtain access to the structure from the CMA.
  - c. the purpose of the extension cannot practicably be met by a land based alternative.
18. Avoid the following activities:
- a. disturbance of the foreshore and seabed and damage to vegetation and habitat from livestock in the CMA.
  - b. underwater explosives training exercises.
19. Avoid mangrove removal within any SEA-Marine 1 or 2 where it will threaten the viability or significance of the ecological values identified in Appendix 6.1 for the SEA-Marine.
20. In addition, avoid mangrove removal within any SEA-Marine 1 unless it will:
- a. maintain or enhance the ecological values of the SEA-Marine where it can be demonstrated these values are being adversely affected by mangrove colonisation maintaining or restoring the open nature of wading bird feeding and roosting areas identified in [Appendix 6.6](#); or
  - b. maintain or enhance public access, such as developing boardwalks, consistent with protecting the geological or ecological values of the SEA-Marine; or
  - c. enable the reasonable operation, maintenance and use of lawful structures and/or allowing for the efficient functioning of drainage systems; or

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- d. enable the provision, maintenance and use of public infrastructure, such as roads, walkways and drainage systems and any associated public health and safety requirements, where there is no practicable alternative location outside the SEA-Marine that would achieve a better environmental outcome.
21. Provide for mangrove seedling removal in SEA-Marine 1 areas that do not have significant values associated with mangroves recorded in [Appendix 6.1](#).

### Precautionary approach

22. Adopt a precautionary approach when:
- a. assessing and responding to the effects of climate change on indigenous biodiversity
  - b. when considering the potential for activities to adversely affect ecosystems and threatened species in the coastal environment.

### Methods

#### Regulatory

##### Unitary Plan:

- SEA Overlay rules
- Auckland wide objectives, policies and rules
- Coastal Marine Zone objectives, policies and rules.

##### Bylaws:

- Dogs on Beaches
- Other animals.

##### Other:

- The Regional Pest Management Plan.

#### Non-Regulatory

##### Non-Statutory plans and strategies

- Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy
- Open Space Strategy
- Marine spatial planning
- Weed Management Policy
- Resource consent guidelines
- Urban Design Manual.

##### Advocacy and education

- Coordination of voluntary efforts
- Planting and other guidance
- MoU with DOC

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- Internet resources for community groups such as 'Nature Space'.

### Funding and assistance:

- Rates relief
- Grants
- Provision of weed and pest management equipment.

### Monitoring and information gathering

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring Programme
- State of the Environment Reporting.

### Explanation and reasons

Auckland contains threatened ecosystems and species and requires effective management to protect and enhance areas important for the long-term viability of our indigenous biodiversity. Increasing resilience of our indigenous biodiversity and enabling adaptation will position Auckland to respond to the potential effects of climate change.

Activities must be managed to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity, and actions taken to address existing threats and areas of degradation. Effectively addressing these issues requires a combination of regulatory and voluntary efforts.

The objectives and policies seek to promote the protection of significant vegetation and fauna and the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity by:

- providing objective, complementary and evidence based criteria to identify areas of significant indigenous biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments
- identifying areas of ecological significance so as to provide greater certainty to people managing and using areas with these values
- promoting restoration efforts to improve the quality, functioning and extent of indigenous biodiversity, and to remedy, mitigate and offset adverse effects of activities
- promoting the identification and enhancement of ecosystem services afforded by indigenous biodiversity
- providing for Mana Whenua's role as kaitiaki, and as owners of land with a high proportion of significant indigenous biodiversity
- proscribing a management approach which avoids adverse effects on significant biodiversity, and requires that, where adverse effects arise, they are remedied, mitigated and offset, so as to ensure activities do not significantly degrade indigenous biodiversity
- providing for reasonable use by landowners and the continuation of existing lawful activities
- providing for the management of mangroves in a way that supports biodiversity values as well as the legitimate expectations of access to, and use of, the coastal marine area
- recognising the vulnerability and importance of coastal indigenous biodiversity, (including threatened marine mammals) and the particular pressure the coastal environment is under from use and development
- directing that activities are undertaken so as to ameliorate the threat of pest, and providing for the establishment and implementation of effective pest management programmes

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- recognising the particular threat to Auckland's biodiversity from kauri dieback disease
- recognising that there are some uncertainties in the management of indigenous biodiversity for which a precautionary response is appropriate.

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### 4.3.5 The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

#### Introduction

The Waitākere Ranges are locally, regionally and nationally significant and, together with their foothills and coasts, cover some 27,720ha of public and private land. They form an important rural backdrop between metropolitan Auckland and the west coast and are outstanding for their terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The ranges include large and continuous primary and regenerating lowland and coastal rainforest, wetland and dune systems and are part of a remnant volcanic landform. They also act as a major water catchment, contributing to Auckland's water supply.

They have a long human history and lie within the rohe of Te Kawerau ā Maki and Ngāti Whātua. European colonisation began in mid-1800s and much of the ranges' resources were depleted over the course of a century. Areas historically farmed or logged have since regenerated, providing a diverse and significant range of habitats.

The ranges landscape typically comprises forested hills, coastal areas, valleys and stream environments containing distinctive, and in some case, regionally threatened species. They are characterised by their scenic beauty, diversity and wildlife. They have significance to Mana Whenua and have highly regarded inspirational, artistic and spiritual values.

Settlements within the ranges offer an attractive living environment. Development is generally sparse and doesn't dominated the natural environment. The eastern foothills are more intensively settled, and comprise a rural working landscape interspersed with remnant bush and riparian areas. The Unitary Plan provides zones and precincts that recognise the unique ways in which settlement has occurred. Titirangi and Laingholm are within the RUB. Therefore the settlement pattern should continue to reflect the heritage features of the ranges. Development will be managed to avoid compromising the values

#### Objectives

1. The natural and historic resources, including the significant environmental values and heritage features of the Waitākere Ranges are protected, restored and enhanced for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the community.
2. Those aspects that are of significance to Mana Whenua, are protected and maintained including:
  - a. the spiritual dimension and the mauri of natural and physical resources and of people
  - b. the kaitiaki of these resources and significant sites and wāhi tapu
  - c. providing for those institutions that are integral to the relationship of Mana Whenua with their environment in a way that promotes the expression and practice of kaitiakitanga.
3. Development in settlements recognises and is sympathetic to the qualities, character and natural features of the ranges and the complex mixed landscapes of the foothills.
4. Cumulative effects of activities on the environment, including its amenity values or its heritage features, are recognised and avoided.
5. The character, scale and intensity of subdivision, use or development does not adversely affect the heritage features or contribute to urban growth outside the RUB.
6. The quality and diversity of landscapes are maintained by:
  - a. protecting landscapes of local, regional, or national significance
  - b. restoring and enhancing degraded landscapes
  - c. managing change within a landscape in an integrated way, including retaining a rural character.
7. Residents can provide for their social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being.
8. The water supply catchments and their related supply functions are protected.

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9. The natural and historic resources of the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park are protected in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the people and communities of Auckland and New Zealand.

### Policies

1. Design and locate structures and impermeable surfaces, and undertake activities in a way that does not impede or adversely affect the potential for the regeneration of native vegetation, or reduce the extent, range and linkage between areas of native vegetation.
2. Prevent activities from releasing plants or pests likely to harm to plants and animals and their habitats.
3. Where clearing for infrastructure is necessary, it should be undertaken only where the vegetation is of lower value and there is no alternative option.
4. Manage activities to minimise their adverse effects on water quality, soil, native vegetation and fauna habitats, mauri of the waterway, taiāpure or mahinga mātaītai.
5. Require the type and density of settlements to avoid degrading the wilderness character of natural landscape features.
6. Avoid non-residential activities:
  - a. unrelated to the productive use of rural land
  - b. that require substantial earthworks or vegetation removal
  - c. that are industrial and unrelated to rural activities.
7. Enable the expansion of appropriate existing commercial activities.
8. Adopt a precautionary approach when considering proposals that threaten serious or irreversible damage to a heritage feature.

### Methods

#### Regulatory

##### Unitary Plan

- Auckland-wide objectives, policies and rules for vegetation management
- Objectives, policies and rules for the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area precinct.

#### Non-Regulatory

- Monitoring and information gathering
- Monitor and report on matters relating to the Heritage Area
- Advocacy and education.

#### Explanation and reasons

The policies above recognise the significance of the heritage area and its features, which are:

- terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of prominent indigenous character
- the different classes of natural landforms and landscapes within the area
- the coastal areas
- naturally functioning streams
- quietness and darkness of the Waitakere Ranges
- opportunities that the area provides for wilderness experiences, recreation, and relaxation



## The Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan (notified 30 September 2013)

- the historical, traditional, and cultural relationships of people, communities, and Mana Whenua with the area
- evidence of past human activities in the area, including those in relation to timber extraction, gum-digging, flax milling, mineral extraction, quarrying, extensive farming, and water impoundment and supply
- its distinctive local communities
- Waitakere Ranges Regional Park
- public water catchment and supply system, the operation, maintenance, and development of which serves the people of Auckland.

The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act describes the local, regional and national significance of the ranges and directs council to prevent cumulative adverse effects from degrading their features and finite resources.

## The Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan (notified 30 September 2013)