

D7. Water Supply Management Areas Overlay

D7.1. Background

The purpose of the Water Supply Management Areas Overlay is to:

- provide protection for the water catchments that supply the freshwater to Auckland municipal water supply dams; and
- provide for the ongoing operation, maintenance, repair, upgrading and development of the municipal water supply infrastructure.

The areas comprise the catchments that are mainly in public ownership surrounding municipal water supply infrastructure. These include five dams in the Waitākere Ranges, two reservoirs in the Hunua Ranges, the Hays Creek dam at Papakura and land owned by Watercare Services in the Riverhead Forest.

The overlay also includes all related supporting and connected water supply infrastructure such as the pipe network and pumping stations located within these catchments. Part of the water supply management area for the Hunua water supply infrastructure is now outside the Auckland region.

Water supply management areas, particularly those in the Waitākere and Hunua Ranges, contain a mix of vegetation cover. Large areas of significant indigenous vegetation meet the criteria for identification as a natural stream management area.

The Waitākere water supply management area forms part of the wider Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. One of the heritage features recognised by the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 is the operation, maintenance and development of the public water catchment and supply system that services the needs of the people of Auckland.

The rules for this overlay are located in E3 Lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands, E7 Taking, using, damming and diversion of water and drilling, E12 Land disturbance – District and E15 Vegetation management and biodiversity.

D7.2. Objectives [rp/dp]

- (1) Municipal water supply infrastructure is able to operate and develop in water supply management areas.
- (2) Natural character, ecological, heritage, recreational and amenity values of water supply management areas are protected while the functional or operational needs of municipal water supply infrastructure are met.

D7.3. Policies [rp/dp]

- (1) Enable the operation, use, maintenance, repair, upgrading and development of structures and activities for the storage, distribution and treatment of municipal water supply in water supply management areas.
- (2) Land use and other activities are managed to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of freshwater in the catchment used for municipal water supply purposes as far as practicable.

D7 Water Supply Management Areas Overlay

- (3) Avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of structures, equipment or works and any discharges of water from dams, pipelines or other water treatment infrastructure on the natural character, ecological, heritage, recreational and amenity values in water supply management areas.
- (4) Provide for infrastructure in, on, under or over water supply management areas only where there is a functional or operational need to be in that location or traverse the area and there is no practicable alternative.