

## **D8. Wetland Management Areas Overlay**

### **D8.1. Background**

The Wetland Management Areas Overlay identifies significant wetlands listed in Schedule 1 Wetland Management Areas Schedule. The overlay provisions protect wetlands from the adverse effects of discharges, water takes, wetland drainage, invasive pest species and their physical disturbance.

Wetlands are one of Auckland's rarest and most at-risk ecosystems, supporting valuable plant and animal communities. They naturally filter contaminants and regulate water flow (assisting in flood attenuation) and reduce contaminants in water. Wetlands also present important cultural, recreational and amenity values.

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.

### **D8.2. Objectives [rp]**

- (1) High natural character and ecological values of wetland management areas are maintained or enhanced.
- (2) The reduction in the spatial extent of wetlands is avoided as far as is practicable.
- (3) Cultural, recreational and amenity values of wetland management areas are maintained or enhanced.

### **D8.3. Policies [rp]**

- (1) Maintain or enhance wetland management areas by:
  - (a) maintaining water quality where it is excellent or good and progressively improve where it is degraded;
  - (b) maintaining water levels to ensure ecosystem functionality and significant variations in water levels occur only through natural fluctuations;
  - (c) avoiding the removal or degradation of wetland vegetation in, on, or adjacent to wetlands;
  - (d) avoiding adverse effects of any activity on ecological values;
  - (e) maintaining the size and spatial extent of the wetland area by avoiding progressive loss of wetland areas; and
  - (f) providing for wetland enhancement activities, including riparian planting and the removal of invasive pests.
- (2) Recognise and provide for ecosystem functions of wetlands in wetland management areas, including the attenuation of flooding and treatment of discharges, where these functions will not result in significant adverse effects on the ecological or cultural values of the wetland.

(3) Avoid activities in, on or adjacent to wetland management areas except where the activity:

(a) is for wetland conservation purposes, including pest removal;

(b) is for public access and interpretative activities relating to high natural character and ecological values; or

(c) is for operation, maintenance, upgrading or replacement of existing or new infrastructure;

provided significant adverse effects on the high natural character and ecological values of the wetland are avoided, and other adverse effects are avoided, remedied, mitigated or offset.

(4) Provide for infrastructure in, on, under or over the wetland management areas only where there is a functional or operational need to be in that location or traverse the area where there is no practicable alternative.