

D2. Quality-sensitive Aquifer Management Areas Overlay

D2.1. Background

The Quality-sensitive Aquifer Management Areas Overlay contains aquifers that are shallow and unconfined and therefore susceptible to pollution from surface sources such as excess fertiliser application or discharges of contaminants such as stormwater or sewage. The potential for contamination is highest in the volcanic aquifers where discharge to aquifers is most direct. These aquifers are important sources of water for rural and industrial purposes, as well as providing base flow to surface streams in some areas.

Rules for this overlay are located in section E7 Taking, using, damming and diversion of water and drilling.

D2.2. Objective [rp]

- (1) The quality and quantity of water in quality-sensitive aquifer management areas is protected from contamination.

D2.3. Policies [rp]

- (1) Recognise the sensitivity of the following aquifers to groundwater contamination and minimise the discharge of contaminants in quality-sensitive aquifer management areas:
 - (a) rural aquifers - Kaipara Sand, Franklin Volcanic, Drury Sand and Āwhitu Sand; and
 - (b) urban aquifers - Auckland isthmus volcanics (including the Ōnehunga, Western Springs Volcanic, Mt Richmond Volcanic, Wiri Volcanic and Mt Wellington aquifers).
- (2) Discourage the discharge of contaminants where they are likely to have significant adverse effects on groundwater quality within quality-sensitive aquifer management areas.
- (3) Maintain the quality of the Onehunga aquifer as a source of municipal water supply for Auckland and minimise the risk of chemical spills into ground or into stormwater drains in the catchment.