

Appendix 8 Biodiversity offsetting [rcp/rp/dp]

[The regional coastal plan [rcp] provisions (for activities or resources in the coastal marine area) are not operative until the Minister of Conservation has formally approved the regional coastal plan part of the Auckland Unitary Plan.]

Biodiversity Offsetting

The following sets out a framework for the use of biodiversity offsets. It should be read in conjunction with the New Zealand government Guidance on Good Practice Biodiversity Offsetting in New Zealand, New Zealand Government et al, August 2014 (or any successor document):

- (1) Restoration, enhancement and protection actions will only be considered a biodiversity offset where it is used to offset the significant residual effects of activities after the adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- (2) Restoration, enhancement and protection actions undertaken as a biodiversity offset are demonstrably additional to what otherwise would occur, including that they are additional to any avoidance, remediation or mitigation undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.
- (3) Offset actions should be undertaken close to the location of development, where this will result in the best ecological outcome.
- (4) The values to be lost through the activity to which the offset applies are counterbalanced by the proposed offsetting activity, which is at least commensurate with the adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity. Where possible the overall result should be no net loss, and preferably a net gain in ecological values.
- (5) The offset is applied so that the ecological values being achieved through the offset are the same or similar to those being lost.