

D5. Natural Lake Management Areas Overlay

D5.1. Background

The Natural Lake Management Areas Overlay applies to natural lakes located in rural areas. The overlay identifies the total lake surface area and a 50m buffer surrounding the lake edge, measured landward from the mean annual water level. These lakes are located in three main areas; South Kaipara Peninsula, north-east coast inland of Pākiri Beach, and Āwhitu Peninsula.

Natural lakes are typically fed by small streams and overland flow with minimal outflows. Water levels of natural lakes are dependent on groundwater hydrogeology, water uptake rates by vegetation and water takes. Natural lake management areas have high water quality, indigenous vegetation and wetlands and support significant biodiversity. These areas also provide a wide range of surface water recreational activities.

Not all natural lake management areas are in pristine condition. They have varying water quality, quantity, ecological values, recreational values and land use within their catchments. Many natural lakes suffer from poor water quality due to nutrient and sediment runoff from surrounding land. The presence of invasive pest species also adversely affects these lakes.

The rules for this overlay are located in [E3 Lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands](#), [E7 Taking, using, damming and diversion of water and drilling](#), [E11 Land disturbance – Regional](#) and [E15 Vegetation management and biodiversity](#).

D5.2. Objectives [rp]

- (1) Water quality in natural lake management areas is maintained where it is excellent or good and progressively improved over time where it is degraded.
- (2) Natural character and ecological values of natural lake management areas are maintained where they are high or enhanced where they are degraded.
- (3) High natural character and ecological values of natural lake management areas are not adversely affected by recreational use.

D5.3. Policies [rp]

- (1) Maintain or progressively improve water quality by avoiding direct and diffuse discharges of contaminants into natural lake management areas.
- (2) Minimise adverse effects on lake water levels of natural lake management areas by avoiding new proposals to take, use or divert surface and groundwater from natural lakes and by restricting water allocation to existing water users.
- (3) Avoid more than minor adverse effects on the hydrology in natural lake management areas from new exotic forestry.
- (4) Maintain and enhance the margins of natural lake management areas by:
 - (a) maintaining and enhancing indigenous vegetation within a 50m setback;

- (b) excluding livestock from the wetted perimeter of the lakes including banks; and
 - (c) avoiding structures within a 50m setback, excluding fences or facilities to support recreational activities.
- (5) Enable recreational activities in natural lake management areas:
 - (a) where they are low-impact activities such as non-motorised boating;
 - (b) by limiting the use of motorised boating on Lake Tomarata, Lake Spectacle and Lake Slipper;
 - (c) by locating any moored structures to avoid conflict with other uses and to ensure they do not adversely affect safety and health of individuals;
or
 - (d) by ensuring existing recreational facilities are utilised efficiently to avoid the erection of new jetties, ramps and other similar structures.
- (6) Avoid the release of invasive pest species into natural lake management areas and enable the removal of existing invasive pest species.
- (7) Provide for infrastructure in, on, under or over the natural lake 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.