

E15. Vegetation management and biodiversity

E15.1. Background

Vegetation contributes to a range of ecosystem services such as erosion and sediment control, reducing stormwater flows, protecting or enhancing water quality, amenity and natural character values, and mitigating natural hazards. Vegetation is a vital part of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems and helps maintain indigenous biodiversity.

The objectives and policies in this chapter apply to the management of terrestrial and coastal vegetation and biodiversity values outside of scheduled significant ecological areas. The management of indigenous vegetation and biodiversity in the coastal marine area outside of identified significant ecological areas is also subject to the objectives and policies of Chapter F Coastal where more specific vegetation management provisions may apply, for example mangrove management.

The objectives and policies that apply to scheduled significant ecological areas for both terrestrial and coastal marine areas are contained in [D9 Significant Ecological Areas Overlay](#).

The rules that apply to the management of vegetation and biodiversity for areas both outside of and within scheduled significant ecological areas – terrestrial are contained in this chapter.

The rules that apply to vegetation management and biodiversity in the coastal marine area, including for areas identified as Significant Ecological Areas – Marine are contained in Chapter F Coastal.

E15.2. Objectives [rcp/rp/dp]

- (1) Ecosystem services and indigenous biological diversity values, particularly in sensitive environments, and areas of contiguous indigenous vegetation cover, are maintained or enhanced while providing for appropriate subdivision, use and development.
- (2) Indigenous biodiversity is restored and enhanced in areas where ecological values are degraded, or where development is occurring.

E15.3. Policies [rcp/rp/dp]

- (1) Protect areas of contiguous indigenous vegetation cover and vegetation in sensitive environments including the coastal environment, riparian margins, wetlands, and areas prone to natural hazards.
- (2) Manage the effects of activities to avoid significant adverse effects on biodiversity values as far as practicable, minimise significant adverse effects where avoidance is not practicable, and avoid, remedy or mitigate any other adverse effects on indigenous biological diversity and ecosystem services, including soil conservation, water quality and quantity management, and the mitigation of natural hazards.

- (3) Encourage the offsetting of any significant residual adverse effects on indigenous vegetation and biodiversity values that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, through protection, restoration and enhancement measures, having regard to Policy E15.3(4) below and Appendix 8 Biodiversity offsetting.
- (4) Protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity when undertaking new use and development through any of the following:
 - (a) using transferable rural site subdivision to protect areas that meet one or more of the factors referred to in [B7.2.2\(1\)](#) and in [Schedule 3 Significant Ecological Areas -Terrestrial Schedule](#) or shown on the Kawau Island Rural Subdivision SEA Control.
 - (b) requiring legal protection, ecological restoration and active management techniques in areas set aside for the purposes of mitigating or offsetting adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity; or
 - (c) linking biodiversity outcomes to other aspects of the development such as the provision of infrastructure and open space.
- (5) Enable activities which enhance the ecological integrity and functioning of areas of vegetation, including for biosecurity, safety and pest management and to control kauri dieback.
- (6) Enable vegetation management to provide for the operation and routine maintenance needs of activities.
- (7) Manage any adverse effects from the use, maintenance, upgrading and development of infrastructure in accordance with the policies in E15.3, recognising that it is not always practicable to locate or design infrastructure to avoid areas with indigenous biodiversity values.
- (8) Recognise and provide for the management and control of kauri dieback as a means of maintaining indigenous biodiversity.
- (9) Avoid activities in the coastal environment where they will result in any of the following:
 - (a) non-transitory or more than minor adverse effects on:
 - (i) threatened or at risk indigenous species (including Maui's Dolphin and Bryde's Whale);
 - (ii) the habitats of indigenous species that are at the limit of their natural range or which are naturally rare;
 - (iii) threatened or rare indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types, including naturally rare ecosystems and vegetation types;

- (iv) areas containing nationally significant examples of indigenous ecosystems or indigenous community types; or
 - (v) areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biodiversity under other legislation, including the West Coast North Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary.
 - (b) any regular or sustained disturbance of migratory bird roosting, nesting and feeding areas that is likely to noticeably reduce the level of use of an area for these purposes;
 - (c) the deposition of material at levels which would adversely affect the natural ecological functioning of the area; or
 - (d) fragmentation of the values of the area to the extent that its physical integrity is lost.
- (10) Avoid (while giving effect to Policy E15(9) above) activities in the coastal environment which result in significant adverse effects, and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities, on:
- (a) areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation;
 - (b) habitats that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;
 - (c) indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are found only in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass and saltmarsh;
 - (d) habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes including fish spawning, pupping and nursery areas;
 - (e) habitats, including areas and routes, important to migratory species;
 - (f) ecological corridors, and areas important for linking or maintaining biological values; or
 - (g) water quality such that the natural ecological functioning of the area is adversely affected.

E15.4. Activity table

Table E15.4.1 Activity table specifies the activity status of vegetation management activities in all zones, other than:

- vegetation removal in the coastal marine area where the rules in Chapter F Coastal apply;

- vegetation removal in the beds of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands where the rules in [E3 Lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands](#) apply;
- use and development for infrastructure where the rules in [E26 Infrastructure apply](#); and
- the Hauraki Gulf Islands that are subject to the Auckland Council District Plan – Hauraki Gulf Islands section where the rules of that district plan apply.

Table E15.4.1 Activity table specifies the activity status of vegetation management pursuant to section 9(2) for all land not held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Table E15.4.1 Activity table also specifies the activity status of vegetation management pursuant to section 9(3) for land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Table E15.4.2 Activity table specifies the activity status of vegetation management pursuant to section 9(2) for SEA – T and section 9(3) for ONF, HNC, ONC, ONL for all land not held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Table E15.4.2 Activity table also specifies the activity status of vegetation management pursuant to section 9(3) for land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

For the purposes of these rules, all distances from water bodies must be measured in a horizontal plane from the edge of the bed of the river or stream, permanent or intermittent, or lake water body.

The rules in Tables E15.4.1 and E15.4.2 implement the policies in [D9.3](#) and E15.3. The plan does not include rules (either regional or district) that require areas of vegetation (whether identified as a Significant Ecological Area- Terrestrial or otherwise) to be fenced in order to implement the policies in [D9.3](#) and E15.3. Fencing requirements may arise though in the following circumstances:

- (a) Fencing being required to avoid, remedy, or mitigate or proposed to offset an effect on the environment related to a particular proposal, including as a condition of resource consent or a condition of subdivision consent;
- (b) The operation of rules regarding livestock access in the coastal marine area (Table F2.19.4 Activity Table (A38), (A39) and (A40)); or
- (c) The operation of rules regarding livestock access to a lake, river or stream, or wetland ([Table E3.4.1 Activity Table \(A51\) and \(A52\)](#)).

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017

If any activity listed in rules (including standards) E15.4.1 to E15.6.7 is regulated by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 (“NESPF”) then the NESPF applies and prevails.

However, the NESPF allows the plan to include more restrictive rules in relation to one or more of the following:

- Significant Ecological Areas Overlay;
- Water Supply Management Areas Overlay;
- Outstanding Natural Character Overlay;
- High Natural Character Overlay;
- Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay;
- Outstanding Natural Features Overlay; or
- activities generating sediment that impact the coastal environment.

Where there is a rule in the plan that relates to any of the matters listed above then the plan rule will apply. In the event that there is any conflict between the rules in the plan and the NESPF in relation to any of the above, the most restrictive rule will prevail.

If the NESPF does not regulate an activity then the plan rules apply.

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020

The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (‘Freshwater NES’) came into force on 3 September 2020. Currently, there may be duplication or conflict between specific plan rules and the Freshwater NES.

If an activity provided for in rules E15.4.1 to E15.9, including any associated matters of discretion, is also regulated by the Freshwater NES, where there is conflict then the most restrictive provision will prevail.

If the Freshwater NES regulations do not apply to an activity, then the plan rules apply.

Duplication or conflict between plan rules and the Freshwater NES will be addressed in the plan as soon as practicable.

Table E15.4.1 Activity table - Auckland-wide vegetation and biodiversity management rules

Activity		Activity status
Use		
All zones outside the RUB and all riparian and coastal areas (as described below)		
(A1)	Biosecurity tree works	P
(A2)	Dead wood removal	P
(A3)	Vegetation pruning, alteration or removal for customary use	P

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(A4)	Emergency tree works	P
(A5)	Forestry and farming activities as existing at 30 September 2013	P
(A6)	Pest plant removal	P
(A7)	Conservation planting	P
(A8)	Vegetation alteration or removal for routine maintenance within 3m of existing buildings	P
(A9)	Vegetation alteration or removal for routine operation, maintenance and repair of existing tracks, lawns, gardens, fences, shelterbelts and other lawfully established activities	P
All zones outside the RUB		
(A10)	Vegetation alteration or removal, including cumulative removal on a site over a 10-year period, of greater than 250m ² of indigenous vegetation that: (a) is contiguous vegetation on a site or sites existing on 30 September 2013; and (b) is outside the rural urban boundary	RD
Riparian areas (as described below)		
(A11)	Vegetation alteration or removal within a Wetland Management Areas Overlay	D
(A12)	Vegetation alteration or removal of any vegetation within a Natural Stream Management Areas Overlay	RD
(A13)	Vegetation alteration or removal within 50m of the shore of a lake within a Natural Lake Management Areas Overlay	RD
(A14)	Vegetation alteration or removal within 30m of the shore of a lake within an Urban Lake Management Areas Overlay	RD
(A15)	Vegetation alteration or removal within 20m of rural lakes	RD
(A16)	Vegetation alteration or removal within 20m of rural streams, other than those in Rural – Rural Production Zone and Rural – Mixed Rural Zone	RD
(A17)	Vegetation alteration or removal within 10m of rural streams in the Rural – Rural Production Zone and Rural – Mixed Rural Zone	RD
(A18)	Vegetation alteration or removal within 20m of a natural wetland, in the bed of a river or stream (permanent or intermittent), or lake	RD
(A19)	Vegetation alteration or removal within 10m of urban streams	RD
Coastal areas (as described below)		
(A20)	Vegetation alteration or removal of greater than 25m ² of contiguous vegetation, or tree alteration or tree removal of any indigenous tree over 3m in height, within 50m of mean high water springs in the Rural –Rural Production Zone, Rural –Mixed Rural Zone, Rural –Rural Coastal Zone, Rural –Rural Conservation Zone, Rural – Waitakere Ranges Zone and Rural – Countryside Living Zone or Future Urban	RD

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	Zone	
(A21)	Vegetation alteration or removal of greater than 25m ² of contiguous vegetation or tree alteration or tree removal of any indigenous tree over 3m in height within 20m of mean high water springs in all zones other than in a Rural – Rural Production Zone, Rural – Mixed Rural Zone, Rural – Rural Coastal Zone, Rural – Rural Conservation Zone, Rural – Waitakere Ranges Zone and Rural – Countryside Living Zone or Future Urban Zone	RD
(A22)	Vegetation alteration or removal of greater than 25m ² of contiguous vegetation, or tree alteration or tree removal of any indigenous tree over 3m in height, that is within: (a) a horizontal distance of 20m from the top of any cliff with; (b) a slope angle steeper than 1 in 3 (18 degrees); and (c) within 150m of mean high water springs	RD
All other zones and areas not covered above		
(A22A)	Vegetation alteration or removal	P
All areas		
(A23)	Permitted activities in Table E15.4.1 that do not comply with one or more of the standards in E15.6	RD

Table E15.4.2 Vegetation and biodiversity management in overlays [other than in the coastal marine area]

Activity	SEA -T [rp]	ONF											HNC	ONC	ONL	
		A1	A	V1	V2	B	C	D	E	F1	F2					
General																
(A24)	Permitted, controlled and restricted discretionary activities in Table E15.4.2 that do not comply with one or more of the standards in E15.6	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Use																
(A25)	Vegetation alteration or removal of up to and including 25m ² of any contiguous indigenous	NA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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	vegetation															
(A26)	Vegetation alteration or removal of greater than 25m ² of any contiguous indigenous vegetation	NA	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
(A27)	Vegetation alteration or removal of up to 50m ² of any contiguous indigenous vegetation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A28)	Vegetation alteration or removal of greater than 50m ² of any contiguous indigenous vegetation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	RD	RD	RD
(A29)	Vegetation alteration or removal within a SEA for a building platform and access way for one dwelling per site	C	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
(A30)	Vegetation alteration or removal within a SEA on Māori land or treaty settlement land for: (a) one marae per site; (b) up to 30 dwellings per site; (c) activities associated with a marae and with papakāinga	C	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	NA	NA	RD	RD	RD

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(A31)	Biosecurity tree works	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A32)	Deadwood removal	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A33)	Emergency tree works	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A34)	Vegetation alteration or removal for customary use	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A35)	Forestry and farming activities as existing at 30 September 2013	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A36)	Pest plant removal	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A37)	Conservation planting	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	P	P	P
(A38)	Vegetation alteration or removal for routine maintenance within 3m of existing dwelling	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A39)	Vegetation alteration or removal for routine maintenance within 3m of existing buildings greater than 100m ² gross floor area	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A40)	Vegetation alteration or removal for routine maintenance within 1m of other existing buildings	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P
(A41)	Tree trimming	P	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
(A42)	Vegetation alteration or	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	NA	NA	P	P	P

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	removal for routine operation, maintenance and repair of existing tracks, lawns, gardens, fences and other lawfully established activities														
(A43)	Any vegetation alteration or removal not otherwise provided for	D	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
(A44)	Any vegetation alteration or removal within a Quarry Zone	RD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

E15.5. Notification

- (1) An application for resource consent for a controlled activity listed in Table E15.4.1 or Table E15.4.2 above will be considered without public or limited notification or the need to obtain written approval from affected parties unless the Council decides that special circumstances exist under section 95A(9) of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (2) Any application for resource consent listed in Table E15.4.1 or Table E15.4.2, other than for a controlled activity, will be subject to the normal tests for notification under the relevant sections of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (3) When deciding who is an affected person in relation to any activity for the purposes of section 95E of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Council will give specific consideration to those persons listed in Rule [C1.13\(4\)](#).

E15.6. Standards

All activities listed as a permitted, controlled or restricted discretionary activity in Table E15.4.1 or Table E15.4.2 must comply with the following standards.

E15.6.A1. General standards

The following standards apply to all permitted, controlled or restricted discretionary activities.

- (1) All kauri material (including sawdust and woodchips) must be retained within 3 times the radius of the canopy drip line of the tree or disposed of to an approved landfill facility.

E15.6.1. [deleted]

E15.6.2. Vegetation alteration or removal for customary use

- (1) No greater than 20m² of vegetation is removed within a significant ecological area per site.
- (2) No greater than 50m² of vegetation is removed from areas not identified as significant ecological areas per calendar year.

E15.6.3. Conservation planting

- (1) Conservation planting in significant ecological areas must only be for ecological restoration purposes.
- (2) Conservation planting within the Outstanding Natural Features Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, High Natural Character Overlay or the Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay must be limited to planting of indigenous species for ecological restoration or landscape restoration purposes.

E15.6.4. Vegetation alteration or removal for routine operation, maintenance and repair of existing tracks, lawns, gardens, fences, shelterbelts and other lawfully established activities in riparian areas, coastal areas, all zones outside the RUB and in overlays identified in Table E15.4.2 [other than the significant ecological areas in the coastal marine area – SEA-M]

- (1) Vegetation alteration or removal must be undertaken within 1m either side of existing tracks or fences.
- (2) Vegetation alteration or removal must not include trees over 6m in height, or 600mm in girth.
- (3) Vegetation alteration or removal must not result in greater than 25m² of vegetation removal from within a Significant Ecological Areas Overlay, Outstanding Natural Features Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, High Natural Character Overlay or the Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay per site.
- (4) Vegetation alteration or removal must not result in greater than 50m² of vegetation removal from areas not identified as significant ecological areas per calendar year.
- (5) *[deleted]*

E15.6.5. Vegetation alteration or removal within a significant ecological area for a building platform and access way for a dwelling per site

- (1) The total area of vegetation alteration or removal must not be greater than 300m².

E15.6.6. Vegetation alteration or removal of any indigenous contiguous vegetation up to 50m² in an Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, High Natural Character Overlay or Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay, or up to 25m² in an Outstanding Natural Features Overlay

- (1) Vegetation alteration or removal must not include trees over 6m in height, or 600mm in girth.

E15.6.7. Vegetation alteration or removal within a Significant Ecological Areas Overlay, Outstanding Natural Features Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, High Natural Character Overlay or the Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay, on Māori land or Treaty Settlement land for one marae per site and up to 30 dwellings and activities associated with a marae or papakāinga

- (1) The total area of vegetation alteration or removal per site is not greater than:
 - (a) 1500m² for a marae; and
 - (b) 300m² per dwelling.

E15.6.8 Vegetation alteration or removal undertaken within the 100-year ARI floodplain

- (1) Vegetation alteration or removal must ensure that erosion control measures associated with vegetation removal and replanting, such as mulch or bark, are not able to be swept off-site in a flood event.

E15.6.9 Tree trimming within Significant Ecological Areas

- (1) The maximum branch diameter must not exceed 50mm.
- (2) No more than 10 per cent of live growth of the tree is removed in any one calendar year.
- (3) Trimming must meet accepted modern arboricultural practice.
- (4) The trimming must retain the natural shape, form and branch habit of the tree.

E15.7. Assessment – controlled activities

E15.7.1. Matters of control

The Council will reserve its control to all of the following matters when assessing a controlled activity resource consent application:

- (1) vegetation alteration or removal within a significant ecological area for a building platform and access way for one dwelling per site:
 - (a) the location of the building platform and accessway;

- (b) the ability to locate a building platform and/or accessway outside the significant ecological area but on the site;
 - (c) the area of vegetation to be cleared; and
 - (d) the measures to remedy or mitigate adverse effects of vegetation clearance and associated earthworks.
- (2) vegetation alteration or removal within a significant ecological area on Māori land or Treaty Settlement land for one marae per site and up to 30 dwellings and activities associated with a marae or papakāinga:
- (a) the location of activities;
 - (b) the provision for Mana Whenua, mātauranga and tikanga values;
 - (c) the area of vegetation to be cleared;
 - (d) the ability to locate activities outside the SEA but on the site; and
 - (e) the measures to remedy or mitigate adverse effects of vegetation clearance and associated earthworks.

E15.7.2. Assessment criteria

The Council will consider the relevant assessment criteria for controlled activities from the list below:

- (1) vegetation alteration or removal within a significant ecological area for a building platform and access way for one dwelling per site:
 - (a) whether there are practicable alternative locations for the development on the site outside of the vegetated area or significant ecological area; and
 - (b) whether vegetation clearance can be carried out in a way that avoids high quality vegetation, particularly if it has conservation significance, and clears lower quality vegetation.
- (2) vegetation pruning, alteration or removal within an significant ecological area on Māori land and Treaty Settlement land for one marae per site and up to 30 dwellings and activities associated with a marae or papakāinga:
 - (a) whether there are practicable alternative locations for the development on the site outside the significant ecological area;
 - (b) whether vegetation clearance can be carried out in a way that avoids high quality vegetation, particularly if it has conservation significance, and clears lower quality vegetation; and
 - (c) whether the location of development is appropriate to provide for Mana Whenua, mātauranga and tikanga values.

E15.8. Assessment – Restricted discretionary activities

The Council will restrict its discretion to all the following matters when assessing a restricted discretionary resource consent application:

E15.8.1. Matters of discretion

(1) all restricted discretionary activities:

(a) ecological values:

- (i) the effects that the vegetation alteration or removal will have on ecological values, including on threatened species and ecosystems; and
- (ii) the extent to which it is appropriate to require measures to contain and control plant pathogens and diseases including Kauri die back.

(b) hazard mitigation:

- (i) the role of the vegetation in avoiding or mitigating natural hazards and the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal will increase any hazard risk; and
- (ii) the effects the vegetation alteration or removal will have on mitigating bush fire risk.

(c) sediment, water quality and hydrology:

- (i) the effects the vegetation alteration or removal will have on soil conservation, water quality and the hydrological function of the catchment.

(d) landscape, natural features and natural character values:

- (i) the effects the vegetation alteration or removal will have on landscape, natural features and natural character.

(e) amenity values:

- (i) the effects the vegetation alteration or removal will have on the amenity values of any adjacent open space including the coast, parks, reserves and walkways.

(f) use:

- (i) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary to enable reasonable use of a site for a building platform and associated access, services and living areas, and existing activities on the site;
- (ii) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary taking into account the need for, or purpose of, the proposed building or structure;

- (iii) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary to enable reasonable use of the site for farming purposes; and
 - (iv) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary to provide for the functional and operational needs of infrastructure, including the road network.
- (g) methods and location:
- (i) the minimisation of effects from alteration or removal of vegetation and land disturbance through alternative locations on the site and/or methods of undertaking the works.
- (h) mitigation measures:
- (i) the remedy or mitigation of adverse effects, including through revegetation, restoration of other areas of vegetation and ongoing maintenance.
- (i) bonds and covenants:
- (i) the benefit of imposing bonds, covenants or similar instruments as conditions of consent in implementing any of the matters of discretion.
- (j) Mana Whenua values:
- (i) the effects on Mana Whenua values associated with a Significant Ecological Areas Overlay, Outstanding Natural Features Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, High Natural Character Overlay or the Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay.
- (2) additional criteria for vegetation alteration or removal within an Outstanding Natural Features Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, High Natural Character Overlay or the Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay on Māori land or Treaty Settlement land for one marae per site and up to 30 dwellings and activities associated with a marae or papakāinga:
- (a) location, mitigation and Mana Whenua values;
 - (b) whether the location of the development is appropriate to provide for Mana Whenua, mātauranga and tikanga values;
 - (c) whether there are practicable alternative locations for the development on the site outside of an overlay;
 - (d) the extent to which vegetation alteration and clearance is minimised through the location of development within an overlay;
 - (e) the extent to which vegetation alteration or clearance can be carried out in a way that reduces its impact on the values of an overlay; and

- (f) whether adverse effects can be remedied or mitigated, including through revegetation, restoration of other areas of vegetation and ongoing maintenance of vegetated areas.

(3) Any vegetation alteration or removal within a Special Purpose Quarry Zone

In addition to the matters in (1) above, the council will restrict its discretion to the matters below for the activities listed as restricted discretionary in the activity table:

- (a) scale, location, quality, significance, visibility of indigenous vegetation and habitats
- (b) significant adverse effects on existing streams, wetlands, riparian margins and habitat
- (c) buffer areas between Mineral Extraction Activities and remaining areas of significant ecological areas
- (d) duration and staging of Mineral Extraction Activities
- (e) proposals for the avoidance, remediation or mitigation of significant adverse effects, or the offsetting of residual adverse effects in the local area, including positive environmental benefits such as actions (including planting) undertaken in advance of vegetation removal
- (f) benefits derived from extracting the resource.

E15.8.2. Assessment criteria

The Council will consider the relevant assessment criteria for restricted discretionary activities from the list below:

- (1) all restricted discretionary activities:
 - (a) ecological values:
 - (i) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal is minimised and adverse effects on the ecological and indigenous biodiversity values of the vegetation are able to be avoided, remedied or mitigated;
 - (ii) whether vegetation removal will have an adverse effect on threatened species or ecosystems; and
 - (iii) the extent to which the proposal for vegetation alteration or removal has taken into account relevant objectives and policies in Chapter [B7.2 Indigenous biodiversity](#), [B4. Natural heritage](#), [Chapter E15 Vegetation Management and biodiversity](#), [E18 Natural character of the coastal environment](#) and [E19 Natural features and natural landscapes in the coastal environment](#).
 - (b) hazard mitigation:

- (i) the extent to which the vegetation serves to avoid or mitigate natural hazards and the amount of vegetation to be retained or enhanced;
 - (ii) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal will increase natural hazard risks; and
 - (iii) whether the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary to mitigate an identified bushfire risk.
- (c) sediment, water quality and hydrology:
- (i) the extent to which vegetation alteration or removal will adversely affect soil conservation, water quality and the hydrological function of the catchment and measures to avoid remedy or mitigate any adverse effects.
- (d) landscape, natural features and natural character values:
- (i) the extent to which vegetation alteration or removal will have adverse effects on the values identified for scheduled outstanding natural landscape, outstanding natural features, outstanding natural character and high natural character areas; and
 - (ii) the extent to which vegetation alteration or removal adversely affects landscape, natural features and natural character values particularly on adjacent public space including the coast, reserves and walkways and measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects.
- (e) amenity values:
- (i) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal will have adverse effects on the amenity values of any adjacent open space including the coast, parks, reserves and walkways and measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects.
- (f) Use:
- (i) whether the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary to enable reasonable use of a site for a building platform and associated access, services and living areas, and existing activities on the site;
 - (ii) the extent to which the vegetation alteration removal is necessary taking into account the need for, or purpose of, the proposed building or structure;
 - (iii) the extent to which the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary to enable reasonable use of the site for farming purposes;
 - (iv) whether the vegetation alteration or removal will improve the reliance and security of the network utility, or road network;
 - (v) whether the vegetation alteration or removal is necessary for a structure that has a functional or operational need to be in the proposed location; and

- (vi) the extent of the benefits derived from infrastructure and the road network.
 - (g) methods and location:
 - (i) whether there are practicable alternative locations and methods including consideration of an application to infringe development control where this would result in retention and enhancement of vegetation on the site; and
 - (ii) whether the effects from the alteration or removal of vegetation and land disturbance can be minimised through works being undertaken on an alternative location on the site, and/or method of undertaking the works.
 - (h) mitigation measures:
 - (i) the extent to which revegetation can remedy or mitigate adverse effects, including eco-sourcing and the ongoing maintenance of revegetation measures.
 - (i) bonds and covenants:
 - (i) whether conditions of consent can avoid remedy or mitigate adverse effects including the imposition of bonds, covenants or similar instruments.
 - (j) Mana Whenua values:
 - (i) the extent to which any adverse effects on Mana Whenua values can be avoided, remedied or mitigated, and having regard to the objectives and policies in [E20 Māori Land](#) whether the proposed works are appropriate to provide for Mana Whenua, mātauranga and tikanga values.
- (2) additional criteria for vegetation alteration or removal within an Outstanding Natural Features Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character Overlay, High Natural Character Overlay or the Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay on Māori land or Treaty Settlement Land for one marae per site and up to 30 dwellings and activities associated with a marae or papakāinga
- (a) Location, mitigation and Mana Whenua values:
 - (i) whether there are practicable alternative locations for the development on the site outside of an overlay;
 - (ii) the extent to which vegetation alteration or clearance can be carried out in a way that reduces its impact on the values of an overlay; and
 - (iii) whether the location of development is appropriate to provide for Mana Whenua, mātauranga and tikanga values.

- (3) Vegetation alteration or removal within a significant ecological area within a Special Purpose Quarry Zone:
- (a) the extent to which the proposed measures, including staging and rehabilitation (and to the extent described in Policy D9.3.(8A) for Brookby and Drury Quarries, which are shown in Figure E15.10.1 Brookby Quarry extent and Figure E15.10.2 Drury Quarry extent respectively) will minimise or mitigate significant adverse effects, offset residual adverse effects or provide for positive environmental benefits through one or more of:
 - (i) actions undertaken in advance of vegetation removal;
 - (ii) the enhancement or protection of existing areas of indigenous vegetation;
 - (iii) the ratio, quality and type of new indigenous planting in relation to the established vegetation to be removed;
 - (iv) the translocation of any indigenous plant and animal species;
 - (v) establishing ecological linkages with existing vegetation and/or habitats;
 - (vi) ongoing programmes of weed and pest control; and
 - (vii) fencing and stock removal.
 - (b) whether or the extent to which the proposed offset measures implement the 'no net loss principle' and the timeframe over which it will be achieved.
 - (c) the extent to which the vegetation proposed to be removed forms part of an ecological corridor, or is adjacent to a watercourse and acts as a filter for sediment and water runoff, or protect threatened plants or animal species and whether the activity will significantly adversely affect these values
 - (d) whether the scale or location of the activity will significantly affect water quality or quantity and the habitat value of waterways or wetlands
 - (e) the extent to which the activity is necessary to enable continued efficient operation of the mineral extraction site.

E15.9. Special information requirements

There are no special information requirements.

E15.10. Figures

Figure E15.10.1. Brookby Quarry extent

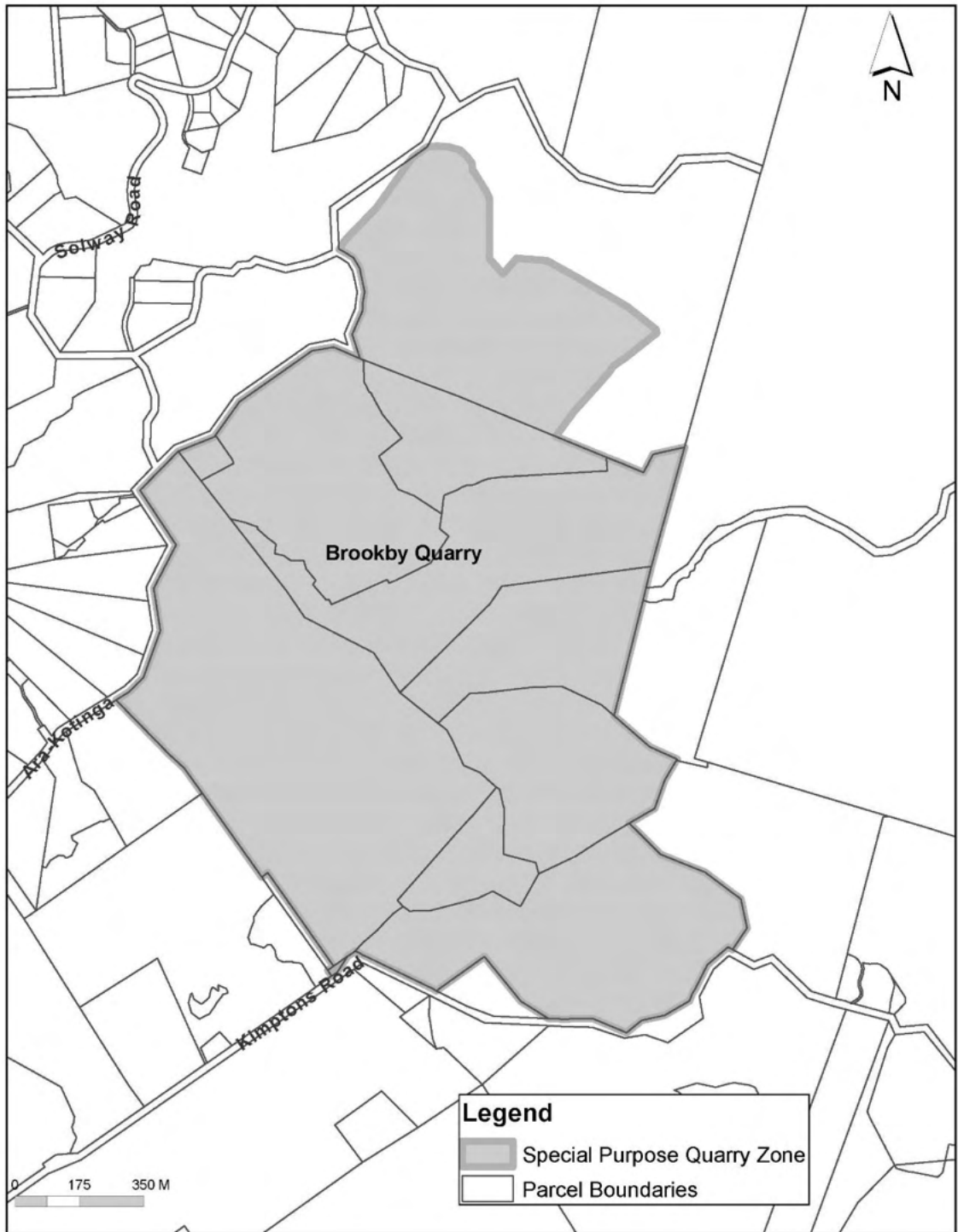


Figure E15.10.2. Drury Quarry extent

