

E18. Natural character of the coastal environment

E18.1. Background

These objectives and policies give effect to Policy 13(1)(b) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010, and Regional Policy Statement Objective [B8.2.1.\(2\)](#) and Policy [B8.2.2.\(4\)](#).

These provisions apply to activities in the coastal environment that are proposed in areas that are not scheduled in the Outstanding Natural Character and High Natural Character Overlay but that require resource consent.

E18.2. Objectives [rcp/dp]

- (1) The natural characteristics and qualities that contribute to the natural character of the coastal environment are maintained while providing for subdivision, use and development.
- (2) Where practical the natural character values of the coastal environment are restored or rehabilitated.

E18.3. Policies [rcp/dp]

- (1) Manage subdivision, use and development of land adjoining scheduled outstanding natural character or high natural character areas that have a biophysical or visual linkage with the scheduled area to:
 - (a) avoid adverse effects on the natural characteristics and qualities that contribute to the natural character values of outstanding natural character areas; and
 - (b) avoid significant adverse effects, and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects, on the characteristics and qualities that contribute to the natural character values of high natural character areas.
- (2) Maintain significant landforms and indigenous vegetation and habitats that are connected to outstanding natural character and high natural character areas.
- (3) Manage the effects of subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment to avoid significant adverse effects, and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects, on the characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character values, taking into account:
 - (a) the location, scale and design of the proposed subdivision, use or development;
 - (b) the extent of anthropogenic changes to landform, vegetation, coastal processes and water movement;
 - (c) the presence or absence of structures, buildings or infrastructure;
 - (d) the temporary or permanent nature of any adverse effects;

- (e) the physical and visual integrity of the area, and the natural processes of the location;
 - (f) the intactness of any areas of significant vegetation, and vegetative patterns;
 - (g) the physical, visual and experiential values that contribute significantly to the wilderness and scenic values of the area;
 - (h) the integrity of landforms, geological features and associated natural processes, including sensitive landforms such as ridgelines, headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands, reefs, freshwater springs, streams, rivers and surf breaks;
 - (i) the natural characteristics and qualities that exist or operate across mean high water spring and land in the coastal environment, including processes of sediment transport, patterns of erosion and deposition, substrate composition and movement of biota, including between marine and freshwater environments; and
 - (j) the functional or operational need for infrastructure to be located in a particular area.
- (4) Promote land use practices and restoration activities that will restore or rehabilitate natural character values.

E18.4. Activity table

There is no activity table for this section.

E18.5. Notification

There are no notification provisions for this section.

E18.6. Standards

There are no standards for this section.

E18.7. Assessment – controlled activities

There are no controlled activities in this section.

E18.8. Assessment – restricted discretionary activities

There are no restricted discretionary activities in this section.

E18.9. Special information requirements

There are no special information requirements for this section.