

## 7.5 MANAGEMENT OF RIPARIAN MARGINS

### 7.5.1 BACKGROUND

Amongst other matters of national importance, Section 6(a) requires that the "... **preservation** of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the **protection** of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;" be recognised and provided for (emphasis added).

Riparian margins are the interface between land and water bodies. Their importance not only relates to their own intrinsic ecological functions and values, but also relates to the ability of the margins to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of land based activities on the water quality and the aquatic environment.

Hauraki District contains coastal, river, stream, wetland and lake riparian margins. In addition, the Plains section of the District (in particular) is bisected by a number of artificial canals and drains, as well as the river control works of the Waihou and Piako Rivers. For these canals, drains and river control works, the potential for the preservation of the natural character of the margins has to be considered in light of the important economic and safety function that they perform for land drainage and flood protection. The development, use and maintenance of these margins for flood control purposes cannot be considered "inappropriate" in all circumstances.

### 7.5.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Maintenance and protection of existing flora and fauna associated with riparian margins.

The use of riparian margins for the protection of aquatic environments from the adverse effects of land use activities (eg sedimentation, water enrichment, bacterial contamination), without causing the destruction of the intrinsic values of the riparian margins themselves.

That some water bodies were created for and continue to serve an economic and safety function, and those functions must continue to be maintained. Not all riparian margins have "natural character", and there is no definition of what does or does not constitute "natural character".

The need to actively manage riparian margins (eg planting, fencing, removal of weeds, removal of windthrow), and the cost and resources necessary to carry out that management.

In many instances the riparian margin is in private ownership and is actively used by the landowner.

There is more than one use for the riparian margin, and the uses can be competing and/or conflicting. There needs to be some process available to resolve those conflicts.

### 7.5.3 ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

Water quality, aquatic habitat, aquatic biodiversity and life supporting capacity of water bodies maintained or improved.

Indigenous biodiversity and terrestrial habitats of riparian margins maintained or improved.

### 7.5.4 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

#### **Objective 1**

To sustainably manage the margins of water bodies and coastal water to maintain or enhance natural character, indigenous biodiversity, water quality, and aquatic and adjoining terrestrial habitats.

#### **Policies**

Objective 1 will be achieved by the implementation of the objectives and policies contained in other sections of the Plan, including Esplanade Reserves, Coastal Environment Policy Area, Conservation (Indigenous Forest) and (Wetland) Zones, and Reserve (Passive) Zone.

### 7.5.5 METHODS TO IMPLEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The District Plan contains a range of methods designed to manage riparian margins, including the following:

- ☞ Rules (eg Setback from Public Drains, Lakes, Rivers and Streams; Erosion Protection Lines (Whiritoa Beach); and Surface of Water in Lakes, Rivers and Streams)
- ☞ Objectives and policies of the Conservation (Indigenous Forest) and (Wetland) Zones, and Reserve (Passive) Zone
- ☞ Objectives, policies and rules for Esplanade Reserves and Esplanade Strips.

Outside the District Plan Council has adopted the use of other methods to manage riparian margins, including:

- ☞ Beachcare group at Whiritoa, and Landcare Groups in the farming community
- ☞ Financial assistance through rates relief for retirement of riparian margins containing significant indigenous flora and/or fauna
- ☞ Support for initiatives by other organisations (eg Environment Waikato, Acclimatisation Society), which seek to enhance riparian margins

### 7.5.6 ACTIVITIES

There are no activities or rules associated with this section of the Plan. Rather, rules and activity status of activities in other parts of the Plan give effect to the objectives, policies and other provisions of Riparian Margins.