

## 6.2 INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY AND SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

### 6.2.1 BACKGROUND

#### (1) PART 2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991 (RMA)

- (a) The RMA has a key role in managing our indigenous biological diversity. Almost all forms of resource use affect indigenous biodiversity, and biodiversity is recognised in the Act in many ways. Part 2 of the Act places a responsibility on the Council to recognise and provide for the general protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna.
- (b) Section 5(2)(b) of the Act refers to safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems. Section 6(c) places a responsibility on Council to protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as a matter of “national importance”. Section 7 also requires Council to have particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values (Section 7(c)) and the intrinsic value of ecosystems (Section 7(d)). The definition of “Intrinsic Values” in the Act includes values derived from biological and genetic diversity and the essential characteristics that determine an ecosystem’s integrity, form, functioning and resilience. These characteristics are also integral to the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems identified in Section 5(2)(b). In addition, it is understood that some areas of indigenous biodiversity have cultural values of importance to tangata whenua, and through the protection of indigenous biodiversity for ecosystem reasons, such protection can also assist Council in carrying out its responsibilities under Section 8 of the Act.
- (c) Section 31 of the Act provides that it is the function of territorial authorities to control the effects of the use of land for the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity.

#### (2) HAURAKI DISTRICT

- (a) There are a wide range of large and relatively unique natural areas within the Hauraki District. From the vast Kopuatai and Torehape Peat Domes dominating the central flood plains, the distinctive tawa-clad ridgeline of the Hapuakohe Range, the scattered kahikatea stands of the Hauraki Plains, the tidal mud flats and mangrove forests of the Miranda coast, the steep dense bush clad hills of the Coromandel Range to the pohutukawa coastal forests between Whiritoa and Waihi Beach.
- (b) Approximately 35,454 hectares (ha) (or 30%) of the District can be considered as being covered with indigenous vegetation and habitats of one form or another. The largest indigenous vegetation class is “Indigenous Forest/Broadleaved Indigenous Hardwoods” (24,788ha) found mainly within the Coromandel and Hapuakohe Ranges. The second largest vegetation class is “Manuka or Kanuka” (8,827ha), a large portion of which is located on the Kopuatai and Torehape Peat Domes.

**(3) FOREST AREAS**

- (a) A range of native forest types is found within the District. Rimu-tawa forest within the Coromandel Ranges and Hapuakohe Ranges is the largest vegetation unit. Secondary growth kanuka forest and logged kauri and tawa forest are also well represented, with much of this forest type being present along the eastern flanks of the Hapuakohe Range and in the north-eastern hill country forests north and south of Waihi. Some nationally threatened units are quite under-represented within the Hauraki District, this being typical of Districts with large components of flat and easy hill country, with fertile soils, which have been developed for agriculture. Coastal forest, primary kauri forest, kauri-beech associations and conifer forest (eg floodplain kahikatea forest) are very under-represented within the District, and also within New Zealand as a whole. These forest types are also poorly represented within legally protected areas (including Department of Conservation land, Council reserves and legal covenants).
- (b) Coastal forest is found on the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula, but only remnants of the once more extensive original pohutukawa-puriri-karo broadleaved forest remain. Areas of regenerating coastal forest do occur, eg north of Whiritoa.
- (c) Inland, over the Coromandel Peninsula, lowland podocarp-tawa forest is the predominant forest type. Most of this forest in the Hauraki District has been modified by logging and burning. The best examples of this forest are protected in the Coromandel and Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges within land managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) whilst remnants do exist on other public and private land. Most of the protected forests lie above 200 metres. Lowland and semi-coastal forest types such as podocarp forest of kahikatea, rimu, totara and occasional matai are generally not protected and have been reduced to remnants due to the desirability of the land for farming. The best examples of this forest are found in the Waitekauri Valley. Kauri forest was originally found as dense stands especially south of the Karangahake Gorge. These have almost all been logged, but now some good stands of regenerating kauri can be found on other public and private land south of the Gorge, such as in Taieri Valley. Across the Hauraki Plains there was little dry land originally, and consequently the only forest types found are wetland forests.
- (d) The Hapuakohe Range runs along the western side of the Hauraki District and in addition to the Matahura Scenic Reserve (DOC), still has several remnants of original forest along its length. These remnants are in other public and private ownership and comprise a mixed broadleaved forest of tawa and kohekohe often with coastal species such as puriri, due to the proximity to the Firth of Thames. There are large podocarps such as rimu, kahikatea and totara, though most of these have been removed by logging, making remnants with tall podocarps significant. There are also pockets of kauri with hard beech, which is a distinct forest type once common to the hills in the Waikato Region, but now very rare. Most of the forest remnants on the Hapuakohe Range have been disturbed by logging and they have been further reduced in recent years by clearance for farming and afforestation with pines.
- (e) Forest remnants in the District provide a range of habitat for a number of threatened species including long-tailed bats, Archey's and Hochstetter's frogs, Kereru, New Zealand falcon, geckos and skinks plus threatened invertebrates. The forest remnants

also serve an important function in the prevention of gully erosion and maintenance of water quality.

#### (4) WETLANDS

Wetlands, like the indigenous forests, have also been significantly reduced or severely modified as a result of agricultural developments. Relative to most other territorial authorities within New Zealand (and New Zealand as a whole), wetlands are very well represented in the Hauraki District – especially the nationally rare Restiad peat wetlands, virtually entirely found within the Kopuatai and Torehape Peat Domes. The freshwater wetlands provide abundant habitat for a number of threatened and uncommon bird species (including the spotless and marsh crake), native fish and plants including threatened endemic orchids, sundews and *Sporodanthus ferrugineus*. However, wetlands, like the indigenous forests, have also been significantly reduced or severely modified as a result of agricultural developments.

##### (a) Coastal Wetlands

- (i) Small areas of mangroves are located within the Hauraki District (eg Piako River mouth area) which are part of the much larger mangrove forest along the southern margin of the Firth of Thames.
- (ii) Other coastal wetlands are found on the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula. Several good examples of these coastal wetland ecosystems exist, such as the Otahu River mouth (which supports a good range of natural wetland habitats on alluvial flats, and still retains the complete sequence from coastal to freshwater wetlands and the transition from natural aquatic systems to regenerating coastal forest on the southern side). Whiritoa Beach lies at the mouth of two streams which both support coastal wetland systems and a dune system.
- (iii) These coastal wetland systems provide habitats for a range of birds including threatened species such as North Island fernbird, Australasian bittern, spotless crake and banded rail.

##### (b) Mineralised Swamp and River Margins

- (i) Most of the river margins on the Plains have been highly modified, with the vegetation comprising predominantly grazed or ungrazed pasture species. Those river margins and river islands which are willow dominated have significant conservation values. Seasonally inundated willow forest provides breeding/feeding habitat for a range of aquatic and bird species.
- (ii) Mineralised swamps still exist but are of quite a different vegetation composition than they would have been originally. The predominant overstorey canopy consists of crack and pussy willow (*Salix* spp.) with emergent cabbage trees in places.
- (iii) Mineralised swamp areas usually support more species and higher overall numbers of native and introduced birds than would a similar sized stand of native bush. The two islands on the Waihou are excellent examples of these mineralised swamps.

**(c) Kahikatea Forest**

- (i) Away from the edges of the rivers, there are scattered stands of kahikatea dominated swamp forest. These are remnants of a forest which, 240 years ago, Captain James Cook described as a "huge wall of trees" along both banks of the Waihou River.
- (ii) Numerous small stands of kahikatea are found along the margins of the Waihou River. Most of these are highly modified, being grazed beneath and on drained farmland. Sustainable kahikatea forest requires seasonal flooding with sediment laden water and to be stock-free. Most of the stands on the Hauraki Plains do not have either of these features.
- (iii) Even stands that are fenced from stock will require management in order to flourish. Nevertheless there are several fine stands worth protecting for their existing values today and their contribution to the landscape values of the Hauraki District.

**(d) Peat Bogs**

- (i) The only unprotected, unmodified peat bog areas remaining on the Hauraki Plains are the remnants of the Pouarua Peat Dome. Both other remnants, ie Kopuatai and Torehape, are Government Purpose (Wetland Management) Reserves.
- (ii) The Pouarua Peat Dome remnants are at present being developed (peat mining, farming). It is not proposed to provide any specific protection to this area for conservation purposes through the District Plan.

**(5) OTHER LEGISLATION**

In addition to the Council's responsibilities under the RMA, other legislation confers powers on other agencies to provide for the protection of areas of significant indigenous flora and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. There is also the requirement of the Department of Conservation under Section 6(ab) of the Conservation Act 1987 to preserve all fresh water fisheries within the District from the effects of land use. Sections 39(4) and (5) set out offences in relation to contamination of fisheries, and these inter-relate with the requirements of Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA.

**(a) Conservation Act 1987**

- (i) The purpose of this Act is to advocate and promote the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources and for that purpose provides for the establishment of the Department of Conservation. Under the provisions of Section 7 of this Act, the Department can acquire and hold land for conservation purposes. Land held by the Department under the Conservation Act 1987 is described as a conservation area. There are also provisions in the Act for protection of conservation values on private land. Under Section 27 the Minister of Conservation may, by agreement, enter into a covenant with a private land owner for conservation purposes. Section 29 makes provision for an agreement

or arrangement between the Minister and the landowner for the management of land so as to conserve any natural or historic resource.

**(b) Reserves Act 1977**

- (i) This Act sets out the provisions by which land is given reserve status, and the means by which such land is managed. Under this Act, the Council or the Department of Conservation can protect land of important recreational, natural or special value in a variety of ways. Both the Council and the Department can buy land to be held as reserve under this Act. The Reserves Act 1977 also makes provision for private land protection. Under Section 76, a private owner can apply to have the land declared to be protected private land on account of its natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, geological or other interest. The Crown and any local authority may agree to enter into a conservation covenant under Section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 to protect private land to preserve the natural environment, landscape amenity, wildlife or marine life or fresh water life habitat.

**(c) Wildlife Act 1953**

- (i) This Act provides for the protection and control of wild animals and birds, the regulation of game shooting seasons, and the constitution and powers of Fish and Game Councils. Various classes of wildlife are protected in varying degrees. Wildlife sanctuaries may be proclaimed by the Governor General, and various conditions may be imposed to protect and preserve wildlife in these areas. The Act provides for the establishment of wildlife management reserves in addition to sanctuaries and refuges. The Department of Conservation manages all wildlife sanctuaries, wildlife refuges and management reserves. Private landowners can apply to have wildlife habitat areas classified as wildlife refuges. The Act deems wild animals to be absolutely protected unless scheduled as game, partially protected, or not protected animals. Where the absolutely or partially protected status applies, permission must be obtained from the Department of Conservation to hunt or kill the animal, pursuant to Section 53 (which may include loss of wildlife from habitat destruction or disturbance on private land).

**(d) Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Act 1977**

- (i) The Trust has been established to encourage and promote the provision, protection and enhancement of open space for the benefit and enjoyment of the people in New Zealand. The Trust is able to enter into agreements with landowners for open space covenants or to purchase land and maintain it as areas of open space. An open space covenant means providing permanent protection to natural resources at the same time as retaining the land in private ownership. There are several such covenants within the Hauraki District at present.

**(e) Forests Act 1949**

- (i) This Act controls the cutting of indigenous forests for timber. It does not apply to tree felling, for example for the development of farmland, if the timber cleared is not milled (ie it is burned off, left to waste, etc). However the cutting and milling

of indigenous timber cleared to create farmland or for any other purpose is managed under this Act.

- (ii) Land owners have to submit and comply with a sustainable forest management plan or permit approved by the Secretary. Section 67V of the Act requires the owner to obtain a resource consent (should this be required under the RMA). Relevant details of the District Plan and Regional Plan are to be included in a sustainable management plan.

## **(6) MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION VALUES**

### **(a) Introduction**

- (i) This section of the Plan identifies areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna (Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)) held in both public and private ownership.
- (ii) The management of land use activities within land managed by the Department of Conservation and on land held for conservation purposes by other public agencies is covered by the Conservation (Indigenous Forest) and Conservation (Wetland) Zones (refer Sections 5.2 and 5.3). All other identified Significant Natural Areas are covered by this section of the District Plan.

## **(7) IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS**

- (a) The Waikato Regional Council, in conjunction with the Hauraki District Council, has undertaken a full review of all protected and unprotected sites of ecological value within the Hauraki District. The sites were identified from existing information held by both Councils and other organisations. The sites were assessed using the criteria for determining significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna contained in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, and nationally recognised criteria. The sites are identified on the planning maps and are listed in the schedule at the end of Section 6.2 as Significant Natural Areas.
- (b) Significant Natural Areas have been derived from analysis and interpretation of aerial photography and/or satellite imagery, along with scientific reports and data (where available), local ecological knowledge and a number of field surveys across the District.
- (c) The sites were then ranked using the criteria for determining significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna contained in Appendix 3 to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement. The process to date has identified, assessed and mapped terrestrial-based Significant Natural Areas. Approximately 200 Significant Natural Areas were identified comprising approximately 32,500ha of land (or 28% of the Hauraki District), containing habitat for at least 49 nationally threatened plants and animals. Approximately 25,824ha (or 79%) are protected by DOC, Council reserves and QEII open space or Nga Whenua Rahui covenants, leaving the remainder (21%) of legally unprotected Significant Natural Areas largely on privately owned land. One

site of International Ecological Significance and four sites of National Ecological Significance are located within Hauraki District.

- (d) The assistance of landowners was sought to check and correct details of the Significant Natural Areas mapped and listed, as part of the Draft District Plan process. Those Significant Natural Areas on which feedback was received were visited and ground truthed by a suitably qualified person, and amendments were made to a number of Significant Natural Areas. Additional Significant Natural Areas were also visited and ground truthed by a suitably qualified person during the Proposed District Plan submission process.
- (e) As not all landowners with Significant Natural Areas provided feedback during the District Plan Review process there will be some Significant Natural Areas that could still require refining. Where Council is made aware of Significant Natural Areas that could require refining they can be ground truthed, and, if required, amended via the Plan Change process.
- (f) Where an application for resource consent is proposed for the removal, clearance or destruction of Significant Natural Area vegetation that has not been ground truthed, financial assistance for ground truthing is available from Council in accordance with its policy set out in Section 6.2.7.
- (g) A range of other Significant Natural Areas are likely to be confirmed as part of the ongoing Waikato Regional Council ecosystem prioritisation project, including rivers and streams, lakes and coastal/marine habitats. The Hauraki District Plan may need to be amended to “give effect to” the identification and assessment of these Significant Natural Areas in the future.
- (h) As well as those ecological features identified and listed in the District Plan as Significant Natural Areas, there are other ecological features in the District that are not listed because they have been given a lower ecological ranking. This lower ranking does not mean, however, that such features are not environmentally important nor worthy of protection by other regulatory and non-regulatory methods. An assessment of the actual and potential effects of subdivision and land use consent activities within the Coastal and Karangahake Gorge Zones and the Outstanding Natural Landscape Area and District Amenity Landscape Area (within the Rural Zone) on ecological values will also further assist in the maintenance of the indigenous biological diversity of the District.

## 6.2.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- (1) The retention of natural areas is essential to ensure the survival of the richness and variety of flora and fauna and their habitats. These areas support a disproportionately large percentage of New Zealand’s most seriously threatened species, habitats and ecosystems. The protection of what remains in these environments is essential to halt the decline of New Zealand’s indigenous biodiversity. This richness and variety contributes significantly to the District’s natural character. It is also important because such areas contribute to the wellbeing of the District’s inhabitants through their role in water and soil conservation,

ecological stability, recreational use, landscape character and natural beauty, and places for educational and scientific study.

- (2) In order to conserve the indigenous fauna resource in the District, it is necessary to protect and conserve the natural environments on which indigenous fauna depend. By conserving a network of natural areas throughout the District, the diversity and abundance of indigenous fauna and their habitats can be maintained. This network of natural areas also ensures the maintenance of a corridor of habitats important for the migratory movement of birds, especially the ecological corridor from Maratoto to Te Aroha.
- (3) The poor condition of the mauri of the District's waterways, wetlands and other natural resources is of significant concern to iwi, as is the extent to which tangata whenua are recognised and supported in carrying out their role as kaitiaki.
- (4) The key resource management issues relate to the significant historical loss and some ongoing loss in the extent of indigenous ecosystems and species (particularly coastal and lowland ecosystems). Indigenous biodiversity is continuing to decline resulting in:
  - (a) loss of resilience and increasing vulnerability of ecosystems and species
  - (b) declining health and quality of ecosystems and species
  - (c) loss of ecosystem services, benefits and functions
  - (d) loss of intrinsic, amenity and cultural values and natural character
  - (e) loss in actual and potential economic opportunities.
- (5) The major causes of biodiversity and habitat loss and decline within the District include:
  - (a) fragmentation and isolation of ecosystems
  - (b) vegetation clearance and modification (including loss of riparian and buffer vegetation)
  - (c) loss of corridors linking fragments
  - (d) animal pests and weeds
  - (e) stock access and grazing
  - (f) disturbance by vehicles, people and animals.
- (6) The methods to be adopted to maintain indigenous biodiversity and to protect Significant Natural Areas need to reflect the relevant sections of the Act and to acknowledge the need for community support and engagement where landowners have remnant indigenous biodiversity values identified on their property. Methods such as rates relief, subsidies and purchase can be considered alongside regulatory and (where appropriate) non-regulatory controls. No Significant Natural Areas have been scheduled in the District Plan without the affected landowners having been first approached.

### 6.2.3 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

#### (1) OBJECTIVE 1

To protect Significant Natural Areas for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing their intrinsic, cultural and amenity values for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.



**(a) Policies**

Objective 1 will be achieved by implementation of the following policies:

- (i) Ranking Significant Natural Areas to determine levels of assistance or allocation of resources for their management.
- (ii) Providing incentives (eg funding assistance may be specified from time to time in the Council's Long Term Plan) to assist landowners with active maintenance/enhancement of their Significant Natural Area and development opportunities (eg subdivision) where protection and management of Significant Natural Areas is obtained.
- (iii) Protection of Significant Natural Areas through the use of regulatory and non-regulatory methods.
- (iv) Progressively improving the level and accuracy of information on Significant Natural Areas, so that it can be effectively used for information, education and regulatory methods and monitoring.

**(b) Reasons**

- (i) To ensure adequate protection is afforded to those natural areas identified as having significance, a combination of voluntary techniques and regulatory measures within the District Plan is considered by Council to offer the best solution.
- (ii) Identifying the relative value of the areas in the District Plan ensures that appropriate levels of protection are provided.

**(2) OBJECTIVE 2**

To maintain and enhance the life supporting capacity of ecosystems, the mauri of natural resources and the extent and representativeness of the District's indigenous biological diversity.

**(a) Policies**

Objective 2 will be achieved by implementation of the following policies:

- (i) Managing the scale, intensity, and location of subdivision and land development activities in a way that avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on areas of indigenous vegetation.
- (ii) Managing the protection and enhancement of ecosystems of importance for both the natural processes they offer and any ecological benefits in terms of connectivity, buffering or the provision of habitat for threatened species and for cultural reasons (traditional associations with indigenous biodiversity) through the subdivision and land use consent process.
- (iii) Where the removal of Significant Natural Areas is necessary to provide for mineral extraction activities within identified Quarry Resource Areas, adverse effects should be remedied, mitigated or offset to achieve no net loss in biodiversity values.

- (iv) That public land be considered for habitat enhancement and increasing biodiversity values, where that is not contrary to the purpose of the public land.
- (v) Collaborate with Waikato Regional Council to develop a local biodiversity strategy to assist in the identification and implementation of the best range of methods (including non-regulatory methods) to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems.

**(b) Reasons**

- (i) For those natural areas identified as not having 'significant' biodiversity value, the land use and subdivision rules provide the opportunity to assess any level of protection required.
- (ii) Development of a strategic approach to local biodiversity maintenance and enhancement means that resources can be applied in a coordinated manner to achieve the best environmental outcomes.

**(3) OBJECTIVE 3**

To promote greater public awareness, support for and involvement in the protection and enhancement of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.

**(a) Policies**

Objective 3 will be achieved by implementation of the following policies:

- (i) Maintaining communication with affected landowners, Department of Conservation, iwi and other organisations who can assist in the management and conservation.
- (ii) Ensuring that information obtained and other legislative means of protection are readily available to the public.
- (iii) Encouraging the retirement of land by landowners and encouraging the identification and implementation of biodiversity enhancement projects by community groups.

**(b) Reasons**

- (i) Statutory provisions alone cannot ensure the protection of Significant Natural Areas. The cooperation of affected landowners and the general public is essential to achieving the conservation of these areas.
- (ii) The District Plan is a suitable public document to help raise public awareness of the existence of the District's remaining Significant Natural Areas.
- (iii) Incentives provide a positive encouragement for conservation and ensure that individual owners are compensated for restrictions imposed.
- (iv) Maintaining communication with affected landowners, Department of Conservation, iwi and other organisations is essential because this objective cannot be achieved by Council in isolation. Cooperation, assistance and advice is required from these individuals and agencies.

- (v) Ensuring information is readily available on identified Significant Natural Areas helps increase landowner and general public understanding and support for the conservation measures advocated.

#### 6.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

- (1) The expected environmental result is the protection of the District's remaining areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna outside the Department of Conservation estate, because of the contribution these areas make to the natural character of the District, and for the maintenance of ecological stability and diversity for the District and Region.
- (2) Maintenance of indigenous biodiversity outside of Significant Natural Areas to support (buffer and link) Significant Natural Areas and the continued functioning of ecological processes and provision of ecosystem services.
- (3) The increased awareness and landowner and community support for the protection of Significant Natural Areas and of biodiversity generally.

#### 6.2.5 ACTIVITIES

Any Resource Consent Applications required under Rule 6.2.5 shall be exempt from Resource Consent Application processing fees. Refer also to *Council's Significant Natural Area Assessment Funding Policy* in Section 6.2.7.

**Note:** In addition to compliance with the District Plan *rules*, applicants should also check with the Department of Conservation for compliance with the Wildlife Act 1953 requirements, and with the Waikato Regional Council for compliance with any relevant Regional Plan *rules*.

##### 6.2.5.1 EXCEPTIONS

###### (1) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following activity status *rules* do not apply to land *management activities* carried out by the Department of Conservation or by other public agencies for conservation purposes, where the *Significant Natural Area (SNA)* is zoned either Conservation (Indigenous Forest) or Conservation (Wetland) (refer Sections 5.2 and 5.3). These *zone* provisions override the following *rules* and should be referred to, although the objectives and policies of Section 6.2 will remain relevant.

###### (2) CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE UNDERLYING ZONE PROVISIONS PREVAIL

The following *rules* only apply where an activity has, or is likely to have, any actual or potential effect on *Significant Natural Area (SNA)* vegetation. Where activities do not involve the trimming, destruction or clearance of *SNA* vegetation or any works within or affecting the root zone of such vegetation, then the underlying *zone* provisions override the following *rules*

and should be referred to, although the objectives and policies of Section 6.2 will remain relevant.

### (3) APPLICATION OF ACTIVITY STATUS RULES

- (a) The following activity status *rules* in Section 6.2.5 do not apply to the *Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)* listed in Table 1 below while the land on which the SNA is located is held in the *current ownership* at the date this District Plan became operative (26 September 2014). For the avoidance of doubt, the underlying *zone* provisions prevail.
- (b) The activity status *rules* in Section 6.2.5 for *Permitted, Controlled, Restricted Discretionary, Discretionary* and *Non Complying Activities* for SNAs will apply where the land on which the SNA is located changes ownership.
- (c) The *Council* will undertake an annual review of the spatial extent of the SNAs listed in Table 1 below. Should this show a loss greater than what could reasonably be expected under the *Permitted Activity rules*, or, *Council* is advised of an intentional incidence of serious damage or destruction of one of the SNAs, it may notify a plan change to apply the regulatory methods in Section 6.2 to that SNA.

Table 1

Site Reference	Map No.	Protection status	Significance	Legal description	Approx Area (Hectares)
S12UP11	8	Unprotected	Local	Sec 15 Blk 11 Piako Survey District	15.90
S13UP33a	20	Unprotected	Local	Pt Sec 2 BLK XII Piako Survey District	1.232
S13UP33b	20	Unprotected	Local	Pt Sec 2 BLK XII Piako Survey District	1.613
S13UP34	20	Unprotected	Local	Lot 1 DPS 86378 and Section 3 SO59855	9.11
S13UP34	20	Unprotected	Local	Lot 2 DPS 34926	3.06
S13UP35	20	Unprotected	Local	Lot 1 DPS 34169	12.48
S13UP48b	20	Unprotected	Local	Lot 2 DPS 9248	0.84
S13UP53b	27	Unprotected	Local	Lot 3 DPS 67359	5.61

#### 6.2.5.2 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

(1) The activities listed below are *Permitted Activities* for those areas listed in 6.2.6 Schedule of *Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)*:

- (a) Trimming or pruning of any SNA vegetation necessary because of disease or age and which will not directly result in the death, destruction or irreparable damage of the tree, bush or plant.

- (b) Removal of dead or damaged trees, where this is necessary to:
  - (i) avoid the death, destruction or irreparable damage of remaining *SNA* vegetation
  - (ii) protect and maintain perimeter and internal fencing of the *SNA*
  - (iii) maintain use of existing tracks
  - (iv) protect and maintain existing *buildings* and *structures*, and the current productive use of adjoining land.
- (c) Land management practices to maintain the *ecological sustainability* of the *SNA* (except within an identified Public Water Supply Catchment shown on the planning maps) such as:
  - (i) planting and management of *indigenous vegetation*
  - (ii) removal of exotic trees and vegetation
  - (iii) control of animal pests
  - (iv) control and removal of *invasive weeds*
  - (v) erection and maintenance of *SNA* perimeter fencing.
- (d) Trimming or pruning of *SNA* vegetation where it affects the operation of existing *network utility structures* or endangers existing lawfully established *buildings* and which will not directly result in the death, destruction or irreparable damage of the vegetation.
- (e) Trimming or pruning of *SNA* vegetation to maintain existing tracks and fencing which will not directly result in the death, destruction or irreparable damage of the vegetation.
- (f) Removal of *SNA* vegetation which is less than two years of age, growing on an existing track alignment, or within one metre of an existing fence, or growing within an area that has been productive pasture within the previous two years.
- (g) Removal of *SNA* vegetation (except within an identified Public Water Supply Catchment shown on the planning maps) where it is carried out in accordance with the terms of a QEII National Trust or other covenant.
- (h) Removal of up to 5m<sup>3</sup> of manuka/kanuka per 12 month period per *property* from any *SNA* ranked of local or regional significance for domestic firewood purposes (except within an identified Public Water Supply Catchment shown on the planning maps) provided the removal will not directly result in the death, destruction or irreparable damage of any other tree, bush or plant.
- (i) Gathering flora of cultural use and importance to *tangata whenua* in accordance with Maori custom and values.

### 6.2.5.3 CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES

- (1) The following activities listed below are *Controlled Activities* for those areas listed in 6.2.6 Schedule of *Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)* with control reserved over the extent, duration and location of the activity, and animal, weed pest and sedimentation control methods, and shall be assessed in relation to the criteria specified in Rule 6.2.5.3(2) below:

- (a) Land management practices to maintain the *ecological sustainability* of the SNA within an identified Public Water Supply Catchment shown on the planning maps, such as:
    - (i) planting and management of *indigenous vegetation*
    - (ii) removal of exotic trees and vegetation
    - (iii) control of animal pests
    - (iv) control and removal of *invasive weeds*
    - (v) erection and maintenance of SNA perimeter fencing.
  - (b) Removal of SNA vegetation within an identified Public Water Supply Catchment shown on the planning maps, where it is carried out in accordance with the terms of a QEII National Trust or other covenant.
  - (c) Removal of up to 5m<sup>3</sup> of manuka/kanuka per 12 month period per *property* from any SNA ranked of local or regional significance for domestic firewood purposes within an identified Public Water Supply Catchment shown on the planning maps, provided the removal will not directly result in the death, destruction or irreparable damage of any other tree, bush or plant.
  - (d) Clearing of SNA vegetation to form a new track less than 4.0 metres wide from any SNA ranked of local significance.
  - (e) Removal of SNA vegetation in accordance with an approved Sustainable Forest Management Plan or Permit, or personal use approval issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries under the Forests Act 1949.
- (2) The following criteria will be used to assess any application for a *Controlled Activity*:
- (a) The nature, form and extent of the proposed activity, alteration or change and its effect on the SNA.
  - (b) The extent to which sediment runoff or contaminants generated by the proposal may affect the potability (drinkable standard) of water from the catchment.
  - (c) The extent to which the quantity of water available for and from water supply catchments will be reduced in the long or short term by the proposal.
  - (d) The measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the SNA. This shall include, but is not limited to, control over which specific tree(s) is removed or modified, the timing and sequence of removal, the method of removal, and the protection of habitats of threatened or at risk indigenous fauna species including the provision of opportunities for the relocation of indigenous fauna (in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953).

#### 6.2.5.4 RESTRICTED DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

- (1) The following activities listed below are *Restricted Discretionary Activities* for all areas listed in 6.2.6 Schedule of *Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)* and the matters over which the *Council* has restricted its discretion are specified below.
- (a) Clearing of SNA vegetation to form a new track less than 4.0 metres wide from any SNA ranked of regional significance.

**The matters over which the Council has restricted its discretion are as follows:**

- (i) The nature, form and extent of *SNA* vegetation removal and its effect on the ecological values of the *SNA*.
  - (ii) The ability of *SNA* vegetation removal to be reasonably located or undertaken on another part of the *site* or *SNA* in a way that will result in nil or lesser impact on the *SNA*.
  - (iii) The extent to which *SNA* vegetation removal can provide opportunities for enhancement of ecological health and values of the *SNA*, including legal and physical protection and active management.
  - (iv) The measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the *SNA*. This shall include, but is not limited to, control over which *SNA* vegetation is removed or modified, the timing and sequence of removal, where relevant, and the protection of habitats of threatened or at risk species including the provision of opportunities for the relocation of indigenous fauna (in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953).
  - (v) The extent to which adverse effects that cannot be avoided are appropriately remedied or mitigated through the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem processes either on-site, or off-site if improved ecological outcomes will result, and that replaces “like for like” habitats and ecosystems.
- (b) Clearance of *indigenous vegetation* within a *SNA* located within a *Quarry Resource Area*.

**The matters over which the Council has restricted its discretion are as follows:**

- (i) Scale, location, quality, significance of *indigenous vegetation* and habitats.
- (ii) Adverse effects on existing streams, riparian margins and habitats.
- (iii) Buffer areas between the quarry extraction activities and remaining areas of the *SNA*.
- (iv) Duration and staging of the *mineral* extraction activities.
- (v) Proposals for the remediation or mitigation of adverse effects, such as the offsetting of biodiversity loss in the local area, active protection and management of any remaining *SNA*.

#### 6.2.5.5 DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

- (1) The following activities listed below are *Discretionary Activities* for all areas listed in 6.2.6 Schedule of *Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)* and shall be assessed in relation to the criteria in Rule 6.2.5.8:
- (a) Any land management practices not provided for as a *Permitted* or *Controlled Activity*.
  - (b) Any other activity not otherwise provided for, that involves an adverse effect on, and/or the destruction and/or clearance of any vegetation from, any *SNA* ranked of local or regional significance.

#### 6.2.5.6 NON COMPLYING ACTIVITIES

- (1) The following activities listed below are *Non Complying Activities* for all areas listed in 6.2.6 Schedule of *Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)*.
- (a) Any other activity not otherwise provided for, that involves the destruction and/or clearance of any *SNA* vegetation from any *SNA* ranked of national or international significance.

#### 6.2.5.7 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- (1) There are no *Prohibited Activities*.

#### 6.2.5.8 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

- (1) The following criteria will be used to assess any application for a *Discretionary Activity*:
- (a) The characteristics and values that deem the area to be significant and the extent to which the activity adversely affects those characteristics and values, including in terms of:
- (i) fragmentation and isolation of indigenous ecosystems & habitats
  - (ii) reduction in the extent of indigenous ecosystems and habitats (including loss of riparian and buffer vegetation) and impact on the ecological functions and integrity of the *SNA*
  - (iii) impact on the ecological relationship between *SNA* features (eg connectivity and buffering)
  - (iv) loss of or disruption to migratory pathways in water, land or air
  - (v) loss or diminishment of hydrological flows, water levels, and water quality
  - (vi) changes resulting in an increased threat from animal and plant pests
  - (vii) effects which contribute to a cumulative loss or degradation of indigenous habitats and ecosystems
  - (viii) loss or reduction of *amenity values*, cultural values, natural character
  - (ix) a reduction in the value of the cultural and spiritual associations with indigenous biodiversity which are held by *tangata whenua*
  - (x) noise and disturbance (from people and vehicles) to indigenous species, particularly within the coastal *environment*
  - (xi) loss of habitat that supports indigenous species under threat of extinction.
- (2) The ability for the activity to be reasonably located or undertaken on another part of the *site* in a way that will result in a nil or lesser impact on the *SNA*.



- (3) The extent to which any runoff or stormwater resulting from the establishment of the activity will lead to siltation, sedimentation or a reduction of water quality in natural watercourses, wetlands and/or groundwater that leads to adverse effects on the *SNA*.
- (4) In relation to *network utilities*, whether the necessity to locate the proposal within the *SNA* can be demonstrated.
- (5) The extent to which the activity can provide opportunities for enhancement of ecological health and values of the *SNA*, including legal and physical protection and active management.
- (6) The extent to which adverse effects that cannot be avoided are appropriately remedied or mitigated through the protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem processes either on-site, or off-site if improved ecological outcomes will result, and that replaces “like for like” habitats and ecosystems.

## 6.2.6 SCHEDULE OF SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

Note: The approximate area is for the whole SNA feature, which may extend over more than one property.

Site Ref.	Map No.	Ecosystem	Protection	Protection type	Significance	Approx. Area (Hectares)
S12P2	4, 8	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	38.88
S12P6	8	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	78.35
S12P13	8	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	12.18
S12P15	8	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC - Waitakaruru Recreation Reserve	Local	1.08
S12P16	9	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC - Henderson Scenic Reserve	Local	1.38
S12P18	9	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII Open Space Covenant - 5/03/165	Regional	3.50
S12P20	9	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII Open Space Covenant - 5/03/612	Local	2.02
S12P22	13, 14	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII Open Space Covenant - 5/03/175.1; 5/03/175.2; 5/03/355	Regional	44.12
S12P201	8	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.009.531	Regional	11.29
S12P202	14	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.927.335	Regional	0.93
S12UP1	4, 8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	8.04
S12UP4	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	45.54
S12UP5	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	8.42
S12UP7	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	37.82
S12UP8	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	9.54
S12UP9	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	30.86
S12UP10	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	16.41
S12UP12	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	8.14
S12UP14	8	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	3.81
S12UP17	9	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	7.55
S12UP19	9	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	3.40
S12UP21	13, 14	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	41.41
S13P28	13, 14, 20, 26	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	1221.36
S13P37	20	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Local	1.54
S13P38	F1	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	2.55
S13P61	14, 15	Wetland	Protected	DOC	National	671.56
S13UP23	13, 14	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	34.82
S13UP24	14	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	31.75
S13UP25	14	Wetland	Unprotected		Local	6.27
S13UP26	14	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	13.90
S13UP28	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	Regional	0.79
S13UP29	14, 20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	168.94
S13UP30	14, 20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	28.09

Site Ref.	Map No.	Ecosystem	Protection	Protection type	Significance	Approx. Area (Hectares)
S13UP31	14	Wetland	Unprotected		Local	1.40
S13UP32	14	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	0.55
S13UP34	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	6.71
S13UP36	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	24.54
S13UP37	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	Local	0.57
S13UP39	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	35.70
S13UP40	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	11.38
S13UP41	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	29.11
S13UP42	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	8.01
S13UP43	20, F1	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	14.12
S13UP44	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	6.39
S13UP45	20	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	15.23
S13UP46	20, 26	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	58.11
S13UP47	20, 26	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	26.73
S13UP48a	20, 26	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	29.88
S13UP49	26	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	104.97
S13UP50	26	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	4.95
S13UP51	26	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	21.84
S13UP52	26	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	230.19
S13UP53	26, 27	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	79.70
S13UP54	27	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	2.29
S13UP62	14, 15	Wetland	Unprotected		National	134.41
T12P64	6	Wetland	Protected	DOC	Regional	19.86
T12P69	11	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII - 5/03/256	Regional	0.74
T12P71	10	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC - Speedy's Reserve	Regional	0.94
T12P151	17, 18	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII - 5/03/184B	Regional	40.07
T12P186	19, E	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Local	11.72
T12P190	12, 19	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	25.35
T12P191a	19, E	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	5.53
T12P191b	19	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC - Moa Hunter Recreation Reserve	Regional	0.47
T12P192	12, 19, E	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	10.08
T12P195	12	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	2.73
T12P196	12	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	7.52
T12UP63	10, 6	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	9.35
T12UP64	6	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	19.56
T12UP65	10	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.37
T12UP66	10	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	6.94
T12UP67	10	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	0.60
T12UP68	11	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	1.32
T12UP70	10	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	3.29
T12UP72	10, 15	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.71
T12UP187	19, E	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	20.17

Site Ref.	Map No.	Ecosystem	Protection	Protection type	Significance	Approx. Area (Hectares)
T12UP188	12, 19	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	49.06
T12UP189	12, 19	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	18.66
T12UP190	12, 19	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	Regional	0.87
T12UP192	12	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	Regional	0.97
T12UP193	12, 19	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	10.49
T12UP194	12	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	10.81
T12UP197	12	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	198.76
T12UP198	12	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	31.00
T12UP207	19	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	Regional	1.32
T12UP208	19, E	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	Regional	1.00
T12UP214	19	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	34.87
T13P55	21, 27	Wetland	Protected	DOC	National	808.71
T13P56	21, 22, 27, 28	Wetland	Protected	DOC	International	4073.23
T13P58	21	Wetland	Protected	DOC	Regional	18.97
T13P59	21	Wetland	Protected	DOC	Regional	8.58
T13P60	21	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	1.22
T13P82	22	Wetland	Protected	DOC	Local	0.97
T13P90	29, 30, 32, 33, 35, H1, H2	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	National	6154.52
T13P93	33	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC - Isobel Franklin Reserve	Regional	43.28
T13P97	33, 34	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	149.79
T13P107	30	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Local	2.02
T13P108	30	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Local	2.47
T13P109	30	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.766.859	Local	1.58
T13P110	30	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.638.524, 81.683.484, 81.638.902	Regional	15.58
T13P112	29, H1, H2	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	48.05
T13P113	29, H1	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	21.01
T13P114	H1	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Local	0.45
T13P115	H1	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	1.65
T13P121	H2, H3	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Local	15.81
T13P122	H2	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	3.43
T13P123	H3	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	3.15
T13P125	17, 18, 23, 24, 29, 30, H2, H3	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	National	2380.48
T13P127	23, G6	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII - 5/03/331.3; 5/03/331.1; 5/03/331.2	Local	9.33
T13P128	23	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII - 5/03/331.2	Local	3.02
T13P130	23	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	526.10
T13P132	23	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	73.42
T13P134	30, H3	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Local	29.97
T13P136	24, 30	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII - 5/03/163	Regional	13.35

Site Ref.	Map No.	Ecosystem	Protection	Protection type	Significance	Approx. Area (Hectares)
T13P137	30	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.767.397	Regional	0.64
T13P138	24, 30	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	2.67
T13P140	24	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII - 5/03/348	Regional	6.41
T13P141	24	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.767.763	Regional	3.22
T13P144	23	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC - Hutchinson Reserve	Regional	77.29
T13P145	17, 23, 24	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.341.832	Regional	65.42
T13P149	17, 18	Terrestrial	Protected	QEII - 5/03/184A	Regional	385.45
T13P150	17	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 82.363.115, 82.363.006, 201.2019.*1131*	Regional	40.49
T13P152	12, 18, 19, 24, 25	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	National	7185.22
T13P155	24	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	29.77
T13P158	24, 30	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	401.05
T13P160	24	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	71.02
T13P162	24, 25	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	376.90
T13P165	31	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC - Ngatikoi Recreation Reserve	Local	30.94
T13P168	25	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.706.891, 81.706.497	Regional	1.54
T13P178	19	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	1.88
T13P179	19	Terrestrial	Protected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	36.57
T13P180	19	Terrestrial	Protected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	77.87
T13P181	19	Terrestrial	Protected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	22.12
T13P184a	19	Terrestrial	Protected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	68.93
T13P184b	19	Terrestrial	Protected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	208.71
T13P184c	19	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	3.87
T13P185	19, E	Terrestrial	Protected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	103.86
T13P203	17, 18	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.363.944	Regional	18.26
T13P204	25	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.761.410	Local	0.83
T13P205	16	Terrestrial	Protected	HDC Covenant - 81.036.844, 81.036.863	Regional	0.87
T13UP57	22, 28	Wetland	Unprotected		International	643.25
T13UP59	21	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	4.16
T13UP60	21	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.09
T13UP73	16	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.40
T13UP74	16, 22	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.24
T13UP76	16	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	1.91
T13UP77	16	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	10.75
T13UP78	17	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	0.96
T13UP79	16, 17	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	7.31
T13UP80	22	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.74
T13UP81	22	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	0.64
T13UP82	22, 23	Wetland	Unprotected		Local	6.06

Site Ref.	Map No.	Ecosystem	Protection	Protection type	Significance	Approx. Area (Hectares)
T13UP83	23	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.09
T13UP84	22	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	0.94
T13UP85	22	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	3.58
T13UP86	28	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	5.56
T13UP87	28, 29	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	144.25
T13UP88	29	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	24.50
T13UP89	29, H1	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	70.50
T13UP90	23, G1	Wetland	Unprotected		Local	3.97
T13UP91	33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	18.36
T13UP92	33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	168.13
T13UP93	33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	0.81
T13UP93A	33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	1.04
T13UP94	30, 31, 33, 34	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	542.71
T13UP95	34	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	10.39
T13UP96	33, 34	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	56.47
T13UP98	34	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	75.78
T13UP99	34	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	1.40
T13UP100	30, 33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	47.35
T13UP101	30	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	36.28
T13UP102	30, 33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	26.28
T13UP103	33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	5.32
T13UP104	33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	22.49
T13UP105	33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	9.45
T13UP106	30	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	65.61
T13UP109	30	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	27.07
T13UP110	29, 30, 33	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	118.80
T13UP111	29, 30, H2	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	62.26
T13UP116	H1, H2	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	44.77
T13UP117	H1	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	8.43
T13UP118	29, H1	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	13.95
T13UP119	29, H1, H2	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	18.59
T13UP120	H2	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	15.43
T13UP123	H3	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	Regional	0.66
T13UP124	H2	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	5.75
T13UP125	30, H2	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	8.00
T13UP126	23, 29	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	127.23
T13UP127	23	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	2.06
T13UP129	23	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.62
T13UP131	23	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	21.66
T13UP133	23, 24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	144.17

Site Ref.	Map No.	Ecosystem	Protection	Protection type	Significance	Approx. Area (Hectares)
T13UP135	24, 29, 30	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	95.09
T13UP137	24, 30	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	34.72
T13UP139	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	18.13
T13UP141	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	9.41
T13UP142	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	86.47
T13UP143	17, 23	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	178.10
T13UP145	17, 23, 24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	173.33
T13UP146	17, 18, 24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	476.25
T13UP147	17	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	67.33
T13UP147A	17	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	4.12
T13UP148	17	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	14.31
T13UP150	17, 18	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	27.29
T13UP153	18, 24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	256.08
T13UP154	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	41.43
T13UP156	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	9.83
T13UP157	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	37.26
T13UP159	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	32.06
T13UP161	24	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	56.89
T13UP163	K3	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	1.37
T13UP165A	31	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	0.60
T13UP166	25, 31	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	69.15
T13UP167	25, 31	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	24.54
T13UP168	25	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	122.79
T13UP176	25	Wetland	Unprotected		Local	1.88
T13UP178	19	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	2.71
T13UP179	19	Terrestrial	Unprotected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	2.28
T13UP180	19, 25	Terrestrial	Unprotected	Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata Covenant	Regional	1.12
T13UP182	19	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	9.02
T13UP183	19	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	40.54
T13UP206	29	Terrestrial	Unprotected	DOC	National	1.13
T13UP209	29	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	2.03
T13UP210	28	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	0.50
T13UP212	H2, H3	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	25.28
T13UP213	28	Wetland	Unprotected		Regional	4.00
U13P170	25	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	7.72
U13P172	25	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	109.88
U13P174	25	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	5.12
U13P177	19, 25	Terrestrial	Protected	DOC	Regional	1.40
U13UP169	25	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	47.82

Site Ref.	Map No.	Ecosystem	Protection	Protection type	Significance	Approx. Area (Hectares)
U13UP171	25	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	12.47
U13UP173	25	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Regional	25.26
U13UP175	25	Terrestrial	Unprotected		Local	2.98



## 6.2.7 SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA ASSESSMENT FUNDING POLICY

- (1) Where an application is required either as a *Controlled, Restricted Discretionary, Discretionary* or *Non Complying Activity* for the removal, clearance or destruction of *Significant Natural Area (SNA)* vegetation from any *SNA*, in 6.2.6 Schedule of *Significant Natural Areas*, listed as unprotected and which has not been previously ground truthed<sup>1</sup>, the *Council* will meet the actual and reasonable costs of an assessment (which may include an ecological assessment) to confirm whether or not the *SNA* vegetation proposed for removal, clearance or destruction meets the *SNA* criteria for determining significant *indigenous vegetation* and significant habitats of indigenous fauna contained in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement.
- (2) Where the *Council* determines that an ecological assessment is required, the *Council* will consult with the landowner to agree on the suitability of an ecologist to prepare the assessment. A suitably qualified person is deemed to be a person who:
  - (a) holds a recognised professional qualification(s) and has relevant experience in terrestrial ecology and biodiversity to be able to assess the *SNA* vegetation against the criteria for determining significant *indigenous vegetation* and significant habitats of indigenous fauna contained in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement; or
  - (b) has relevant experience in relation to the matters set out in (a) above and is approved by *Council* prior to undertaking the assessment.
- (3) The costs of the ecological assessment shall be approved by *Council* prior to the assessment outlined in (1) being undertaken.

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<sup>1</sup> Ground truthed means the *SNA* has been physically inspected and assessed by an ecological expert during the course of the District Plan Review process on behalf of the Council or subsequently for the purpose of this funding policy.

