

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Hearings of Submissions on the Proposed Waikato District Plan

Report and Decisions of Independent Commissioners

Decision Report 10: Landscapes

17 January 2022

Commissioners

Dr Phil Mitchell (Chair)

Mr Paul Cooney (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Jan Sedgwick

Councillor Janet Gibb

Mr Dynes Fulton

Ms Linda Te Aho

Mr Weo Maag

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Hearing 21B addressed the submissions received by Waikato District Council (Council) on the objectives, policies, and rules relating to Outstanding Natural Character and Landscape provisions in the Proposed Waikato District Plan (PDP.)
- 1.2 The purpose of the landscape provisions is to manage activities, effects, buildings and subdivision within those landscapes which are identified on the planning maps.¹

2 Hearing

- 2.1 The section 42A report addressed 234 submissions and 242 further submissions. The section 42A report author analysed these and made a recommendation for each submission to be accepted or rejected by us, along with any associated changes to the proposed plan text and planning maps. The author amended some recommendations in rebuttal and hearing documents.
- 2.2 The hearing was held largely on 29 October 2020 at Council's offices in Ngaruawahia and the evidence of Tuurangawaewae Trust Board was heard via Zoom on 2 November 2020. All of the relevant information pertaining to this hearing (i.e., section 42A report, legal submissions and evidence) is held on Council's website.
- 2.3 We heard from the following parties on the landscape provisions of the PDP:

Council	Jane Macartney (author of section 42A report) Rebecca Ryder (landscape assessment)
Waikato-Tainui	Maia Wikaira (legal counsel) Gavin Donald (planning) Rukumoana Schaafhausen Antoine Coffin (landscape assessment) Donna Flavell
Tuurangawaewae Trust Board	Gavin Donald (planning) Hinerangi Raumati-Tu'ua
Hill Country Farmers Group	Kirstie Hill Bruce Hill
Tata Valley Ltd	Adam Jellie
Federated Farmers NZ	Hilary Walker
Steven and Theresa Stark	In person

¹ Section 42A Report 21B – Landscapes by Jane Macartney, Paragraph 17, dated 6 August 2020.

Havelock Village Ltd	Tabled letter from Mark Tollemache
Powerco	Tabled letter from Gary Scholfield
Geoscience Society of New Zealand	Bruce Hayward
Auckland Volcanic Cones Society	G L Smith
Waikato Regional Council	Tabled letter from Mark Tamura
Bernard Brown	In person
Lizbeth Hughes	In person
Director-General of the Department of Conservation	Troy Urlich (legal counsel) John Riddell Graeme La Cock
Kiwirail Holdings	Pam Butler
Kāinga Ora	Phil Stickney
Transpower	Tabled letter from Rebecca Eng
Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency)	Michael Wood
Telco companies	Tabled letter from Colin Clune, Andrew Kantor and Graeme McCarrison
Genesis Energy Ltd	Tabled letter from Karen Sky

3 PDP Approach to Natural Features and Landscapes

- 3.1 In developing the PDP, Council employed consultants Boffa Miskell Ltd to review the existing landscape characterisation and classifications and to re-evaluate the landscapes in line with current methods and case law. Boffa Miskell delivered their findings in the Waikato District Landscape Study (the Landscape Study).² This identified outstanding natural features and landscapes, significant amenity landscapes, and natural character areas. The methodology by which the areas were identified is described in the Landscape Study and summarised later in this decision.

² Waikato District Landscape Study included in section 32 report "Landscape and Natural Character."

- 3.2 The PDP adopted the Landscape Study conclusions, identifying these mapped landscape overlays:
- a. Outstanding Natural Features (ONF) – 13 mapped features, 7% of district;
 - b. Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONL) – 3 mapped landscapes, 5% of district;
 - c. Significant Amenity Landscapes (SAL) – 15 mapped landscapes, 3% of district; and
 - d. High and Outstanding Natural Character Areas - 5 mapped areas, 1% of district, all within coastal environment.
- 3.3 Chapter 3 of the PDP contains objectives and policies intended to address the requirements of sections 6 and 7 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS). Rules are contained in zone and infrastructure chapters.
- 3.4 The proposed objectives and policies on outstanding natural features and landscapes (ONF and ONL) refer exclusively to the mapped overlays. The policies identify attributes that are to be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Rules include stricter control on earthworks, building and subdivision in ONF and ONL.
- 3.5 The proposed objective for SAL is to maintain or enhance the attributes of areas and features valued for their contribution to landscape values and visual amenity. This objective is drafted widely enough to cover mapped and unmapped places with those landscape and amenity values. However, the policies refer only to the SAL overlay, requiring SAL to be maintained and enhanced during subdivision, land use and development. The wider objective is relevant to subdivision consents, where effect on landscape values generally (not just in a SAL) is a matter of discretion.³
- 3.6 Proposed objectives and policies on the natural character of the coastal environment refer only to high and outstanding natural character areas.⁴ The policies are intended to protect the natural character qualities of these areas from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Rules control activities in the high and outstanding natural character areas, notably earthworks and building. All buildings are discretionary activities in these areas and permitted earthworks are constrained.⁵ Subdivision in high and outstanding natural character areas is a discretionary activity.
- 3.7 The natural character of water bodies and their margins is managed without mapped overlays. Proposed objectives and policies apply to all waterbodies and any natural character that might be present. Ordinary zone rules provide for building setbacks from water bodies and control vegetation clearance close to waterbodies, to protect natural character along with other outcomes. Where those rules trigger a consent, effects on natural character will be assessed.

³ For example, Rule 22.2.8 Indigenous vegetation clearance RD1(b)(v); Rule 22.4.1.2(b) General Subdivision.

⁴ Objectives and policies 3.5.1-3.5.3.

⁵ For example, Rural Zone earthworks rule 22.2.3.4.

- 3.8 The PDP approach to these matters differs from the Operative District Plan, as detailed in the section 42A report.⁶ For example, the PDP discontinued ONF status for most of the Waikato River and some geological features, while it introduced the SAL overlay.

4 Overview of issues raised in Submissions

- 4.1 In the section 42A report, Ms Jane Macartney set out the full list of submissions on landscapes. In summary, the key relief sought by the submitters related to:
- a. requests for less onerous objectives and policies;
 - b. requests for less onerous rules, such as those that specify area and volume thresholds for earthworks;
 - c. requests for additional geological features to be identified as outstanding natural features;
 - d. requests to delete or amend the mapping of identified landscape areas;
 - e. request for the Waikato River to be identified as an outstanding natural landscape.⁷

5 Overview of Evidence

- 5.1 For Waikato-Tainui, planning evidence was presented by Mr Gavin Donald, Ms Rukumoana Schaafhausen, Ms Donna Flavell and Mr Antoine Coffin, with legal submissions presented by Ms Maia Wikaira. They supported submissions asking for the whole of Te Awa o Waikato (the Waikato River) to be ONF and ONL, instead of the small section identified as ONF in the PDP as notified. Their evidence attested to the cultural landscape values of the river and advocated for the PDP to give this greater recognition as an “Outstanding Cultural Landscape.”
- 5.2 Ms Hinerangi Raumati-Tu'ua for Tuurangawaewae Trust Board supported the submissions of Waikato-Tainui, including the introduction of an Outstanding Cultural Landscape overlay for the river and its margins.
- 5.3 Ms Kirstie Hill and Mr Bruce Hill presented evidence on behalf of the Hill Country Farmers Group. Their evidence opposed the definition, mapping and controls related to the Significant Amenity Landscapes (SAL) overlay. This evidence is discussed in more detail below.
- 5.4 Mr Adam Jellie for TaTa Valley Ltd (TaTa Valley) supported adding schedules to assist plan users and decision makers to identify the relevant attributes and values of landscape areas that should be maintained. Mr Jellie asked for detailed changes to the recommended schedule for SAL.
- 5.5 Ms Hilary Walker for Federated Farmers NZ (FFNZ) presented evidence focusing on SALs and requesting changes as discussed further below.

⁶ s42A Report 21B – Landscapes – Jane Macartney, 6 August 2020, sections 3.1 and 3.2.

⁷ Section 42A Report, Paragraphs 105-108.

- 5.6 In their presentation, Mr Steven and Mrs Theresa Stark criticised the consultative process undertaken by Council and opposed the ONF overlay on their property. The Starks asked for compensation, suggesting that this could be in the form of rates relief, transferable development rights, or assistance with costs such as fencing. Mr and Mrs Stark also asked for the deletion of all objectives, policies, methods and rules related to SALs.
- 5.7 Mr Mark Tollemache for Havelock Village Ltd (Havelock Village) supported submissions asking to delete the SAL overlay from Havelock Village properties at Bluff Road. This evidence expressed support for recommendations in the section 42A report to delete the SAL within 278 Bluff Road and its reduction in size within 242 Bluff Road.
- 5.8 Mr Gary Scholfield for Powerco asked for an amendment to Policy 3.4.3 to exclude support structures (specifically 12-metre high power poles) from the policy that buildings and structures be integrated into SALs.
- 5.9 Dr Bruce Hayward for Geoscience Society of New Zealand provided extensive evidence about geological features in Waikato District. He argued for greater protection of geological features. This evidence is discussed in more detail below.
- 5.10 Mr GL Smith, for the Auckland Volcanic Cones Society, argued for greater protection of volcanic features, saying that their geological importance pushed the volcanoes towards being ONFs rather than ONLs or SALs. The evidence also supported the Geoscience Society submissions.
- 5.11 Waikato Regional Council (WRC) sought an amendment to Policy 3.3.3(a)(i) to refer to outstanding natural features and landscapes within the coastal environment, to give effect to Method 12.1.1(a)(i) of the RPS, and changes to the Planning Maps to extend the Mt Karioi ONL to include coastal features.
- 5.12 Mr Bernard Brown disagreed with the ONL classification for Mt Karioi because of numerous existing buildings on the lower slopes. He advocated for the ONL classification to be replaced by an ONF, excluding the Tainui o Tainui development area. He also suggested an extension of the SAL to include the Te Akau coast between Raglan and Port Waikato.
- 5.13 Ms Lizbeth Hughes expressed disagreement in principle with the SAL mapped on part of her property at Whale Bay. She said that development there would not be visible from the coastal marine area or public access points.
- 5.14 Mr Andrew Riddell for the Department of Conservation covered a wide range of topics. In summary, he supported the inclusion of:

- (a) schedules recording characteristics and qualities for each landscape or feature;
 - (b) advocated for a natural character assessment for wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins;
 - (c) the Waikato River as an ONF or ONL or high natural character;
 - (d) Geopreservation Index sites as ONF;
 - (e) amending objectives and policies relating to natural character to recognise policy directives;
 - (f) an amendment to Objective 3.5.1 to relate to the natural character of the whole of the coastal environment, not only mapped overlays; and
 - (g) amendments to Policies 3.5.2-4 to provide a complete list of the characteristics of natural character.
- 5.15 Ms Rebecca Eng for Transpower gave support for recommendations in the section 42A report in relation to Transpower on the objectives, policies and definitions related to ONL, ONF, SAL and natural character.
- 5.16 Ms Pam Butler for KiwiRail asked to remove the ONF overlay from the designated rail corridor near the Whangamarino Wetland, and to add existing infrastructure to Policy 3.3.2 as an attribute of ONFs.
- 5.17 Mr Michael Wood for Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) supported the recommendations in the section 42A report in relation to Waka Kotahi's submissions. These submissions sought the retention of the ONF, ONL, and outstanding natural character overlays in the PWDP; except in those locations where these crossed over Waka Kotahi's designations.
- 5.18 Telco companies (letter from Colin Clune, Andrew Kantor and Graeme McCarrison) supported recommendations in the section 42A report in relation to their submissions on the ONF, ONL, SAL and natural character overlays.
- 5.19 Ms Karen Sky for Genesis Energy Ltd expressed support for two recommendations in the section 42A report. These were to reduce the extent of the SAL overlay near the Huntly Power Station, and the recommendation for parts only of the Waikato River to be classified ONL, because the criteria for ONL is not achieved for the whole of the Waikato River.
- 5.20 For Kāinga Ora, Mr Phil Stickney's evidence supported the recommendations of the section 42A report author to amend Policy 3.5.2 (b) to delete the term "very high" and replace it with "High Natural Character", and the recommendation to amend the permitted earthwork thresholds to provide a greater area threshold and reduce the maximum permitted volume threshold for earthworks within Landscape and Natural Character Areas in the Residential Zone.

6 Panel Decisions

- 6.1 **Attachments 1-5** contain our decisions on provisions. Where we have accepted the recommended decision and reasoning from the section 42A report, we restate the reasons shortly in this decision. More detailed discussion is given to the more

contentious issues, or where we have not adopted the section 42A report recommendation.

7 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes – Overview

- 7.1 Submitters expressed no significant opposition to the plan provisions for ONF and ONL. Many submitters supported the objectives and policies, while others sought changes to wording of objectives and policies. These were mainly recommended to be rejected in the section 42A report, and we also reject most of them as potentially weakening the policy framework or adding unnecessary complication. The exceptions are discussed further in this section.
- 7.2 Submissions calling for the whole Waikato River to be ONF or ONL, and for geological features to be ONF, are discussed later in this decision.
- 7.3 Three submitters asked for Schedules to be added to the plan listing the ONF, ONL and their attributes.⁸ The PDP refers to the attributes in policies but does not provide full details of the attributes of each area. Policy 3.3.2 gives examples of attributes of three categories of ONF and ONL: mountains, ranges and hill country; Waikato River delta, wetlands, and lakes; and west coast dunes. The examples of attributes given in the policy are described briefly and broadly. For example, the mountain and hill country attributes include “ridgelines and valleys”, “significant ecological values”, “indigenous bush” and “existing pastoral farming activities on the margins of these areas.”
- 7.4 Mr Riddell in his evidence said that there would be practical benefit in including schedules of the attributes of each mapped area. He said that assessment of effects of development on ONF and ONL and landscapes in the coastal environment requires consideration of the actual and potential effects on the attributes (characteristics and qualities) of the landscape or feature.
- 7.5 The section 42A report supported the addition of schedules, noting that other district plans include details of attributes and that the Environment Court has commented favourably on this approach. The report recommended draft text for the schedules.⁹
- 7.6 We agree that schedules should be added to the plan for ONF and ONL, and for the natural character areas discussed later. We consider this to be accepted best practice. We agree with Mr Riddell that including the detail of the attributes of individual areas will assist understanding of the plan and the assessment of resource consent applications. The Schedules to be added are provided in **Attachments 4 and 5**. These were updated by Boffa Miskell after the hearing with our further adjustments to reflect the decisions made.
- 7.7 Policies, definitions and rules will require consequential amendments to reference the schedules, and we have made those text changes as set out in **Attachments 1 and 2**. The inclusion of the detailed schedules renders the indicative list of attributes under

⁸ Department of Conservation [585.36], Geoscience Soc [8.1], Havelock Village [862.31].

⁹ Section 42A report, Section 9.1.3, Attachments 4, 5 and 6.

Policy 3.3.2 redundant. Retaining it would be potentially contradictory and confusing in some cases. We have deleted the original text and replaced it with this:

3.3.2 Policy – Recognising values and qualities

(a) Recognise and protect the attributes of outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes as set out in Schedule 30.6.

7.8 Submissions were made seeking detailed changes to Policy 3.3.2. We accept a submission seeking to add “protect” to the policy, but given the deletion of the notified text, the other submissions on the policy are rejected.¹⁰

7.9 Submissions from WRC sought amendments to Chapter 3.3 to give effect to Method 12.1.1 of the RPS.¹¹ This requires district plans in Waikato Region to protect ONF and ONL from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:

- “i) avoiding adverse effects of activities on the values and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment; and
- ii) outside of the coastal environment, avoiding adverse effects of activities on the values and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes, and if avoidance is not possible remedy or mitigate the adverse effects.”

7.10 Policy 3.3.3 deals with inappropriate subdivision, use and development, but it does not differentiate between the coastal environment and other parts of the district, nor prioritise avoidance of adverse effects over mitigation. We accept that the policy needs to be amended to give effect to the RPS and therefore we accept the WRC’s submission in that regard. The section 42A report recommended changes, but we have not adopted that wording. We have decided to amend the policy to reflect the RPS as follows:

3.3.3 Policy - Protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development

~~a) Ensure that the attributes of identified Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:~~

(aa) Avoid adverse effects of activities on the characteristics of Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the coastal environment.

(ab) Avoid adverse effects of activities on the characteristics of Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes outside the coastal environment, and if avoidance is not possible remedy or mitigate the adverse effects, by:

- (i) requiring buildings and structures to be integrated into the outstanding natural landscape or feature to minimise any visual impacts;

¹⁰ Whaingaroa Environmental Defence [780.21] accepted in part; Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Council [433.40] rejected.

¹¹ Waikato Regional Council [81.105, 81.106].

- (ii) managing the adverse effects of building platforms, buildings, driveways and roads through appropriate subdivision design;
 - (iii) requiring subdivision and development to retain views of outstanding natural landscapes and features from public places; and
 - ~~(iv) avoiding the adverse effects of extractive industries and earthworks.~~
- (ac) Avoid the adverse effects of extractive industries and earthworks on the attributes of Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes."

8 How to classify the Waikato River

Introduction

- 8.1 Much of the hearing focused on how the Waikato River should be classified in landscape terms. The PDP identified a short reach of the Waikato River delta near Port Waikato as ONF and larger areas of the river and margins as SAL. Some parts of the river received no landscape recognition and were not included in either landscape overlay.

The Waikato District Landscape Study

- 8.2 The PDP approach was based on the Waikato District Landscape Study (the Landscape Study), which classified the river as a feature, not a landscape. We note that the Landscape Study described 'features' as discrete elements within a landscape, which are generally experienced from outside the features' boundaries.¹²
- 8.3 The Landscape Study also found distinctive character areas where the Waikato River and its margins vary in condition and extent. The Landscape Study assigned different landscape statuses to each character area of the river based on three attributes: biophysical features, sensory qualities, and associative meanings (being spiritual, cultural or social associations with landscape elements).¹³
- 8.4 Landscapes and features were assessed for these three attributes on a seven-point scale from 'very high' through to 'very low'. Outstanding natural features and landscapes were defined as those landscapes and features that would reach an overall rating of greater than 'high' with no one of the attributes rated lower than 'moderate'.¹⁴
- 8.5 The Landscape Study also identified areas as SAL where the landscape was modified in a biophysical sense but remained important in terms of cultural associations.¹⁵

Submissions

¹² Waikato District Landscape Study, Page 11.

¹³ Section 42A report, Paragraph 95.

¹⁴ Evidence of Rebecca Ryder, Section 3.3.2.

¹⁵ Section 42A report, Paragraph 103.

- 8.6 Four submitters sought to include the whole river as both ONF and ONL.¹⁶
- 8.7 The Waikato River Authority's submission sought an acknowledgement of the Waikato River as a primary feature that requires greater protection and restoration. The Authority called for the river to be considered in its entirety, not in parts or sections, saying that statutory recognition of the river justified its recognition as an ONF and ONL to achieve the objectives of the Vision and Strategy.
- 8.8 Waikato-Tainui and Tuurangawaewae Trust Board submitted that an ONF and ONL status should be based on Treaty settlement legislation, the RPS, and the Boffa Miskell analysis of cultural and Tangata Whenua values.
- 8.9 Jackie Colliar submitted for a Waikato River Corridor Zone to recognise the significance of the river, as well as calling for an ONF and ONL status.

Section 42A report recommendations

- 8.10 The section 42A report recommended that an ONF and ONL status for the whole river be rejected but it did recommend that the notified ONF be extended in the Port Waikato-delta area, and that the submissions be accepted in part, to that extent.¹⁷

Evidence

- 8.11 We received evidence on behalf of Waikato-Tainui and Tuurangawaewae Trust Board, Department of Conservation (further submitter supporting) and Genesis Energy (opposing). Ms Rebecca Ryder, author of the Landscape Study, gave evidence for Council.
- 8.12 Tuurangawaewae Trust Board and Waikato-Tainui made the case for the PDP to recognise the cultural importance of the whole of the Waikato River.
- 8.13 Ms Raumati-Tu'ua for Tuurangawaewae Trust Board outlined the history and cultural importance of Tuurangawaewae marae beside the river, and their perceptions of the river.
- 8.14 Ms Schaafhausen for Waikato-Tainui emphasised these points about their relationship with their awa (river):
- a) That the Waikato River is a living ancestor to the people and is fundamental to their beliefs; and
 - b) Their tuupuna awa is a single, indivisible being.
- 8.15 Ms Flavell for Waikato-Tainui described the Waikato-Tainui kōrero, central to their special relationship with Te Awa o Waikato and reflected in the settlement legislation, in support of recognition of the Waikato River as an outstanding natural landscape or feature. She said that Waikato-Tainui is comfortable with bespoke arrangements for the

¹⁶ Submissions of Waikato-Tainui [286.14], Tuurangawaewae Trust Board [984.18], Waikato River Authority [642.5], and Jackie Colliar [493.5, 493.6]; were opposed and supported by further submitters.

¹⁷ Section 42A report, Section 13.1.2.

river that meet their unique history and context as a people whose identity is defined by their Awa Tuupuna.

8.16 Mr Coffin for Waikato-Tainui identified the values that Waikato-Tainui attribute to the river, influencing their sense of place, identity and connection physically, mentally and spiritually with the awa. He considered that these values should be given the highest regard, particularly in light of Te Ture Whaimana (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River).¹⁸

8.17 Mr Coffin addressed the landscape assessment methodology of the Landscape Study, saying that the river could not attain an outstanding level because the discipline evaluates biophysical features; sensory qualities; and spiritual, cultural and social associations, in a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 approach and relies on western methodologies that subsume Maaori cultural values. Using this mathematical equation, Maaori values, at best, will account for one-sixth for the assessment.

8.18 Mr Coffin went on to say:¹⁹

My view is that the current approach to landscape assessment in New Zealand is a reductionist approach that does not comfortably provide for or recognise Maaori world views. This is acknowledged in the landscape study that Maaori understanding of, and attitudes to, landscape can be significantly different from those of non-Maaori.²⁰ I believe there is an argument for an evolution of the landscape assessment criteria to better reflect Maaori world view in relation to cultural landscapes.

8.19 Mr Coffin proposed that the river could be a cultural landscape or a Maaori Area of Significance. In his view this could be a cultural landscape category given equal weighting with ONF, ONL and amenity landscapes.

8.20 Mr Donald for Waikato-Tainui supported the options put forward by Mr Coffin, in addition to the identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes. Mr Donald presented a draft Outstanding Cultural Landscape chapter, containing objectives, policies, rules and an attributes schedule that he proposed should be added to the PDP.

8.21 Mr Donald said that Te Ture Whaimana, as part of the RPS, provides a legal impetus for the PDP to recognise the cultural values of the river. Mr Donald noted that Objective 11.7.1 of the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan provides that Te Ture Whaimana prevails in any resource management, use and activity within the Waikato River catchment in the Waikato-Tainui rohe.

8.22 Mr Riddell for the Department of Conservation supported inclusion of the river as an ONF, ONL or high natural character. He considered that the river is an instance where RMA sections 6(e), 7(a) and section 8 need to be considered in addition to 6(b). He saw a need to include special provisions in the PDP to recognise and provide for the cultural narratives and Te Ture Whaimana.

¹⁸ Te Ture Whaimana: The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 and Waikato Regional Policy Statement.

¹⁹ Evidence of Antoine Coffin, Paragraph 88.

²⁰ Waikato District Landscape Study, Page 13

8.23 We received a written statement from Genesis Energy, supporting the section 42A report recommendations for only the identified parts of the river to be identified as ONF, and for reduction of the SAL overlay at Huntly Power Station.

8.24 Ms Ryder for Council gave expert evidence responding to the submissions, including details of the methodology used to evaluate the river as a landscape or feature.²¹

Legal submissions

8.25 Legal submissions from Ms Wikaira for Waikato-Tainui advocated for an Outstanding Cultural Landscape overlay for the river to be included in the PDP, with equal weighting to the ONF and ONL overlays. The legal basis for this was submitted to be based on Te Ture Whaimana, as well as sections 6(e) and (f) of the RMA.

8.26 Legal submissions from Ms Ulrich for the Department of Conservation said that the Environment Court has acknowledged that there are no invariable criteria for outstanding qualities or attributes, and it depends on the specific characteristics of the natural landscape or natural feature. Ms Ulrich said that the weight to be afforded to each attribute is site-specific and that a feature may be identified as outstanding for reasons other than landscape values.

Post hearing process

8.27 Before adjourning the hearing on 2 November 2020, we requested that Council staff work further with Waikato-Tainui to determine how the provisions being proposed would work in practice and whether they raised any jurisdictional issues. Discussions took place as detailed in the section 42A report's closing statement.²²

8.28 Subsequently, we received further feedback from Waikato-Tainui²³ and, reflecting this, amended advice from Ms Ryder.²⁴

8.29 Waikato-Tainui said:

Ultimately the preference of Waikato-Tainui is for the recognition of the Waikato River in its entirety as an Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL). We consider that the River can be considered its own landscape, rather than a feature within a broader connected landscape. In our opinion, this would better recognise the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River. However, we recognise that an Outstanding Natural Feature (ONF) status will recognise the River water body and islands as outstanding. Furthermore, an ONF status will recognise the River, inclusive of the delta, as a single feature within the district rather than seeing it divided across two separate classifications.

8.30 Ms Ryder recommended that the entire waterbody (i.e., the water channel within the riverbanks) be identified as ONF. Her recommendation included islands, but not land outside the riverbanks, except at the lower end of the river. She recommended the ONF

²¹ Statement of Evidence of Rebecca Ryder, dated 11 September 2020.

²² Concluding hearing report by Jane Macartney, Paragraph 115, dated 23 December 2020.

²³ Email from Gavin Donald to section 42A report author. 18 December 2020; Memo from GMD consultants to Hearings Panel, dated 22 December 2020.

²⁴ Boffa Miskell, Further Technical Response to Submissions on Landscape Classifications of the Waikato River, dated 9 December 2020

should include river margins in the Port Waikato-delta area, with the addition of the Okariha Sand Spit which was notified in the PDP as SAL.

- 8.31 Ms Ryder recommended retaining the notified SAL along the river to indirectly support the river channel ONF and provide some landscape controls on those margins. Minor map changes to the river's waterbody interface to marry with the identified waterbody edge of the proposed ONF were also advised.

Decision and reasons

- 8.32 Our decision is to amend the PDP to identify the whole length of the Waikato River as an ONL. This includes the waterbody, islands and margins as described later in this decision. The SAL overlay is to be removed as detailed in a separate decision below. Submissions asking for ONL and ONF status for the river are therefore accepted in part.²⁵ Further submissions supporting and opposing are decided accordingly.
- 8.33 The evidence of the Maaori cultural perspectives of the river is available on the record. We have summarised it above. We have concluded on the evidence that there is a compelling case for the PDP to recognise the cultural importance of the Waikato River and that the legal framework for identification of ONL can encompass that.
- 8.34 We preferred to define the river as ONL rather than the other suggested options of a cultural landscape or Maaori site of significance under sections 6(e) and (f) of the RMA. Our reasons are that the ONL was within the relief sought in the submissions and we see the river as fundamentally a landscape that should be managed within the ambit of section 6(b).
- 8.35 The Waikato District Landscape Study and the expert evidence used three criteria to analyse landscapes, namely biophysical features, sensory qualities, and associative meanings. Applying these criteria to the Waikato River, Ms Ryder's revised recommendation was to identify the whole waterbody, all the islands and some of the margins as outstanding. We accept and adopt her methodology and reasoning to include those parts of the river.
- 8.36 We have departed from Ms Ryder's recommendation in two respects.
- 8.37 First, we have identified the waterbody, islands and margins combined as ONL rather than ONF. We consider that the river, including islands and margins, constitutes a landscape more than a feature because the scale and context of the river makes it distinct from adjacent landscapes. The river with its margins can be meaningfully perceived as a whole, fitting the definition of "landscape" suggested by the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects.²⁶
- 8.38 Second, we have included the margins along the whole length of the river, recognising the inseparable cultural importance of the river channel and margins, and that the river

²⁵ Waikato-Tainui [286.14], Tuurangawaewae Trust Board [984.18], Waikato River Authority [642.5], Jackie Colliar [493.5].

²⁶ NZILA best practice Note 10.1 – *Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management*, as cited in RPS 12B.

cannot be protected from inappropriate development under the PDP without controls on development along the margins.

8.39 We acknowledge that, in deciding to include these margins all along the river, we are departing from Boffa Miskell's scoring system. Boffa Miskell defined outstanding natural features and landscapes as those rated "high" across the three attributes of biophysical features, sensory qualities, and associative meanings.

8.40 Mr Coffin in his evidence said that this is a reductionist approach that does not provide for or recognise Maaori world views. Similarly, Tainui o Tainui submitted that the methodology used to assess landscape and natural character is Eurocentric and ignores cultural context. We agree with the section 42A report author that the Maaori world view of landscapes does not clearly fit the case law approach.²⁷

8.41 We see a need to give effect to the Maaori world view concerning the river. In doing so, we accept that the three criteria mentioned above are applicable, as part 12B of the RPS says that these should be followed. However, we see flexibility in the scoring system.

8.42 The whole of the Waikato River scored highly for associative meanings, which include spiritual, cultural and social associations, but lower in different places for biophysical features and sensory qualities. We take the view that the high associative elements by themselves justify identifying the whole river and its margins as ONL. The fact that the other two attributes do not score uniformly well in all parts of the river does not deflect us from that view.

8.43 We are satisfied that the ONL including margins gives effect to part 12B of the RPS. It emphasises that landscape involves both the physical attributes of the area and people's appreciation of such attributes, which is the approach we have taken. The RPS also states that the ONL must be both 'natural' and 'outstanding' in these terms:

"'Outstanding' means 'conspicuous, eminent, excellent, remarkable'.

'Natural' means a landscape predominantly characterised by natural elements and processes (for example landform, natural vegetation and/or water). 'Natural' can include managed rural landscapes (including pastoral landscapes) where natural elements and processes are dominant."

8.44 The river including its margins is unquestionably conspicuous, eminent and remarkable in the district. Perceptions of the margins are clearly dominated by the river and its processes. Natural aspects include the water, riparian flora and fauna, and the pastoral landscapes within the WRPS description as well as areas of exotic trees and other vegetation. The margins that are not pasture or other vegetation include a variety of development, but for the most part have a landscape character dominated by proximity to the river.

Objectives, policies and rules

²⁷ s42A Report, para 96; Tainui o Tainui [942.42]

- 8.45 We have not adopted Mr Donald's separate draft chapter, which in our view refers to a wider range of matters than effects on landscape,²⁸ even when that term is used in the widest possible sense to incorporate cultural dimensions. We prefer to apply the general objectives, policies and rules that apply to all other ONL.
- 8.46 We note that Policy 3.3.4 already calls for consideration of cultural and spiritual relationships of Maaori with ONL, along with Maaori cultural and customary uses of natural resources as an integral part of ONL, and we see no need for changes to that text.
- 8.47 While rules for activities are the same for all activities in ONL, the assessment of any resource consents triggered by these rules will differ. The attributes of each of the four ONL are individually described in schedules that have been added to the plan. The schedules are referred to in policies and rules and will be considered in assessment of consents. This will ensure that effects of an activity on the unique attributes of each ONL are assessed. The new Schedule 30.6 relating to the river highlights the spiritual, cultural and social associations of the river as set out in **Attachment 4**.

Mapping the margins

- 8.48 The river is mapped as a single ONL overlay along the length of the river, extending landward over the margins on both sides.
- 8.49 We have set the ONL margin width at 28 metres. We consider that this margin width is necessary to protect the attributes of the ONL from inappropriate land use, subdivision and development.
- 8.50 The topography around the river does not dictate the extent of the margin. We have taken a pragmatic approach, bearing in mind a number of matters, including: the evidence we heard about the cultural landscape; the need to manage the adverse effects of land use, subdivision and development for a reasonable distance set back from the river; and the likely perceptions of landowners regarding any new compliance requirements.
- 8.51 Our starting point was to review the already proposed controls in the PDP on land use, subdivision and development near the river:
- a. 37-metre building setback from the river in the Rural Zone: Rule 22.3.7.5 as amended;²⁹
 - b. 37-metre building setback notified for the Country Living Zone and Reserve Zone;³⁰
 - c. 28-metre building setback notified for the Residential, Business and Town Centre Zones;³¹

²⁸ Evidence of Gavin Donald, Attachments "Draft Schedule 30X Cultural Landscapes." and "Draft Outstanding Cultural Landscape Overlay Chapter."

²⁹ Adopting the recommendation to Hearing 18 Rural Zone (Land use) in the section 42A report by Jonathon Clease, Paragraph 700, dated 25 August 2020.

³⁰ Country Living Zone Rule 23.3.7.5; Reserves Zone 25.3.5.2.

³¹ Business Town Centre Rule 18.3.7; Business 17.3.4.2; Residential Zone 16.3.9.3.

- d. 50-metre building setbacks notified for the Village and Industrial zones;³²
- e. 25-metre esplanade reserves required to be created from subdivision along the river;³³
- f. 50-metre margins mapped as SAL along the river from Tamahere to near Meremere (and sporadically below Meremere);³⁴
- g. Natural hazards rules in Chapter 15 controlling building, earthworks and subdivision in areas subject to flood risks and ponding. The width of the land controlled in this way varies, but in many places extends more than 37 metres from the river.

8.52 Mr Donald in evidence proposed that river margins be mapped uniformly at a width of 37 metres based on the notified building setback in the Rural Zone.³⁵ We have not accepted that, because we recognise that the existing development in urban zones has already significantly modified the river landscape. We have reduced the margin width to exclude the Huntly Power Station site, which is developed with industrial structures that negate any natural or cultural values. Accordingly, we accept in part the submission of Genesis Energy.³⁶

8.53 The margin that we have set falls between the widths identified in other planning controls. We see the outcomes as reasonable overall, providing protection to the river landscape without unduly disrupting the expectations of landowners.

8.54 We consider that most affected landowners will see a reduced area of their land affected by landscape controls as the practical difference as a result of ONL replacing SAL. This is because the notified SAL generally identified more land beside the river as part of the river landscape. SAL rules were to control intensive farming, earthworks, subdivision, indigenous vegetation clearance, and building height. Similar controls will apply under the ONL. The SAL did not simply relate to amenity but included the relationships of Maaori with their resources as reflected in Policy 3.4.4.

8.55 We also consider it relevant to landowner expectations that the Operative District Plan - Waikato section includes a Landscape Policy Area over the river, including 50-metre wide margins in the Rural Zone and Country Living Zone.

Coastal mapping

8.56 The section 42A report recommended changes to the mapped line of mean high water springs (MHWS) crossing the river about a kilometre upstream of the river mouth. The location of MHWS is defined in the RMA and mapped in the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan.³⁷ In the PDP, this line marked the downstream extent of the notified ONF overlay over the river channel.

³² Village Zone Rule 24.3.6.3; Industrial Zone 20.3.4.2; Industrial Zone – Heavy 21.3.4.2.

³³ Rule 22.4.7 and Appendix 4.

³⁴ The SAL overlay 50-metre wide along the river adopted the mapping of the Landscape Policy Area in the Operative District Plan.

³⁵ Evidence of Gavin Donald, Draft Overlay Chapter, Page 9 – Definition of cultural landscape.

³⁶ Genesis Energy [924.11]

³⁷ Waikato Regional Coastal Plan Appendix III.

- 8.57 Two changes were recommended. First, it was noted that the PDP map shows the line a few hundred metres upstream of the position of the line on the regional map. This is an obvious error, and we have corrected it.
- 8.58 The second recommendation was to extend the ONF from the line of MHWS down the river channel to the district boundary at the river mouth. We do not accept this recommendation, for either the notified ONF or the new ONL. We consider that activities in the river channel below MHWS are managed by the regional coastal plan, not the PDP.

Schedule

- 8.59 **Attachment 4** includes descriptions and attributes of all ONF and ONL. The ONL section for the river includes some text from the evidence of Mr Coffin.

9 Outstanding Natural Features – Geological features

Submissions

- 9.1 The Geoscience Society of New Zealand made two submissions seeking to add geological features to the plan as ONF.³⁸ One submission sought to carry forward 10 ONF from the Operative District Plan into the PDP. The other sought to add 30 more geological sites as ONF. Further submissions were made in support and opposition, including the Department of Conservation and Auckland Volcanic Cones Society in support, and FFNZ opposing.

Section 42A report recommendations

- 9.2 The section 42A report recommended rejection of an ONF status for the 10 geological sites listed in the Operative District Plan. The reasons were that RPS does not require geological sites to be considered, and their inclusion in the PDP now would disadvantage landowners. The disadvantage arose because the addition of the geological sites would require new plan provisions, which had not been developed or available for public input.³⁹
- 9.3 In regard to the second submission to add 30 more geological sites as ONF, the section 42A report noted that two of these were identified as SAL in the PDP. The report recommended we accept the submission in part, to the extent that the Port Waikato sandspit (Okariha Sand Spit) be given an ONL status. This was based on expert advice that the other 29 sites did not satisfy the criteria for an ONF.⁴⁰

Evidence

- 9.4 Dr Bruce Hayward gave evidence on behalf of the Geoscience Society, which he illustrated with pictures of the geological sites. He gave the following reasons for including the sites as ONF:
- a. Eight of the features in the former Franklin district area have been protected as ONFs since the early 1990s and resource consent processes have defended them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development;⁴¹
 - b. Many of the sites have been assessed as nationally-significant for their scientific values in the NZ Geopreservation Inventory;
 - c. ONFs are geological sites and landforms, noting that marine and terrestrial ecosystems, cultural and historic heritage sites are all protected elsewhere in the RMA;
 - d. The sites need to be identified, mapped and scheduled so that they can be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development; and
 - e. Other district plans recognise geological sites and landforms as ONF.
- 9.5 Mr Smith for the Auckland Volcanic Cones Society supported the protection of volcanic sites in the PDP. Mr Smith said that many of the features are eroded volcanoes and are

³⁸ Geoscience Society of NZ, submission [8.2 and 8.3].

³⁹ Section 42A report, Paragraph 299.

⁴⁰ Section 42A report, Paragraph 301.

⁴¹ Operative Waikato District Plan - Franklin Section, Schedule 5b.

an important aspect of the Waikato volcanoes. He said these features make them special but they had not been considered properly. Mr Smith then noted that the sites' eroded nature means they can be easier to subdivide, use and develop.

- 9.6 Mr Riddell for the Department of Conservation supported inclusion of the sites in the PDP. Mr Riddell said that many other plans include such geologically important sites as ONFs. He said that natural features can be outstanding for more reasons than just landscape, but the PDP had simply evaluated the geological features as landscape features.
- 9.7 Ms Hilary Walker for FFNZ opposed the addition of the sites and supported the section 42A report recommendation. Ms Walker said that it is inappropriate to add sites on private land without direct landowner consultation. The land use controls applying to the overlays made a rigorous identification process with meaningful consultation necessary.
- 9.8 Ms Ryder gave expert evidence responding to the submissions.⁴² She recommended that the unmodified part of the Okariha Sand Spit, originally classed as a SAL, be made ONF. Ms Ryder disagreed with identifying any other geological sites as ONF, basing her assessment on the Landscape Study methodology, in which the main considerations were:
- a. Scale: smaller geological features where they cannot be experienced outside the feature itself are not included as an ONF; and
 - b. Evaluation of biophysical, sensory or associative values: ONFs were defined as those landscapes and features that would reach an overall rating of greater than 'High' with none of the attributes rated lower than 'Moderate.' The geological features did not meet this test.

Legal submission

- 9.9 Legal submissions from Ms Ulrich for the Department of Conservation argued for features to be evaluated using different criteria from those applicable to landscapes. Ms Ulrich submitted that declining recognition of features on the basis that they do not meet the criteria tailored to landscapes, a discreet and separate standard, is contrary to the requirement to recognise and provide for outstanding natural features as a matter of national importance. Ms Ulrich noted that part 12B of the RPS lists some relevant factors, allowing further factors to be added with discretion to determine their relevance.

Post hearing process

- 9.10 After the hearing, and at our request, Dr Hayward sent us supporting technical information on the assessment of the geological sites he referred to in his submission.⁴³ In this document, Dr Hayward focused on a reduced listing of geological sites as ONF. These were the seven sites currently listed as ONF in the Operative District Plan:

1. Daff Road Jurassic Plant Beds;
2. Kaawa Creek-Ngatutura Point Section;
3. Moeweka Quarry Jurassic Fauna;

⁴² Response to Submission by Geoscience Society of NZ by Boffa Miskell, dated 31 July 2020.

⁴³ Assessment of Outstanding Natural Features - Geoheritage in Waikato District by Bruce W. Hayward (2021). See Council website under Hearing 21b - Supporting technical information.

4. Opuatia Cliff Jurassic Fauna;
5. Huriwai Beach Jurassic Plant Beds;
6. Pukekawa Scoria Cone; and
7. Onewhero Tuff Ring and Crater.

Decision and reasons

- 9.11 Our decision is to add the above seven sites as ONF. These will be mapped with the same extents as they are shown in the Operative District Plan. The ONF objectives, policies and rules of the PDP will apply to these sites the same as to any other ONF. Schedules detailing the attributes of each site will be added to the PDP.⁴⁴
- 9.12 Consequently, we accept in part Geoscience Society of NZ's submissions to the extent that the seven geographical features identified in Dr Hayward's additional evidence are added to the PDP as ONFs, as well as Okariha Sand Spit as recommended in the section 42A report. Further submissions are decided accordingly.
- 9.13 We consider that these features qualify as ONF. We agree with Ms Ulrich's legal submission that features may be evaluated using different criteria from criteria applicable to landscapes. The sites are unquestionably natural features and outstanding within the RPS criteria of "conspicuous, eminent, excellent, and remarkable". The RPS allows additional factors to be considered, and here we have included scientific values. These sites have been assessed as nationally significant for their scientific values in the NZ Geopreservation Inventory. We also accept that the sites are vulnerable to development pressure and need to be identified, mapped and scheduled so that they can be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development
- 9.14 We accept Dr Hayward's contention that the RMA does not say that a small feature cannot qualify as an ONF. We were not advised of case law that might constrain our approach on this. Sites assessed as nationally significant for their scientific values in the NZ Geopreservation Inventory should qualify in our view, even if other values are lower. We note that there are numerous examples of geographical features listed as ONF in other district plans and we assume that they have applied a similar approach.
- 9.15 We give greater weighting than Ms Ryder did to the inclusion of the sites in the Operative District Plan, Franklin section. In our view, the associative values of those sites are enhanced by their listing and management as ONF in the Operative District Plan for the past 20 years. In this respect we see a clear difference between the Franklin ONF sites and the remainder of the sites submitted by Dr Hayward.
- 9.16 We might have included more of the geological features as ONF, but we were concerned that they may have impinged on private property rights. Although the addition of the features was raised in submissions, a landowner in that situation should be provided with a specific opportunity to respond to any such proposals. Notification through a future Schedule 1 process would be appropriate. We anticipate that Council may well

⁴⁴ The geological sites schedules are modified from the drafts in the section 42A report.

wish to undertake a district-wide ONF assessment, something that in the current PDP hearing process we could not do.

10 Significant amenity landscapes

Submissions

- 10.1 The SAL overlay comprises 15 mapped landscapes, about 3% of the land area of Waikato district. The Operative District Plan did not include the SAL and its introduction in the PDP attracted numerous submissions, mostly in opposition.
- 10.2 Many of the opposing submissions were from landowners expressing concern about the effects that inclusion in the SAL would have on their farming or other land uses. While many submissions opposed the details of the mapping or individual rules, there were also submissions that challenged the inclusion of the SAL in the PDP. It is those submissions that are the main focus of this decision.
- 10.3 Opposing the SALs, Mr and Mrs Stark submitted to delete all objectives, policies, methods and rules relating to SALs.⁴⁵ TaTa Valley sought to delete the SAL from the PDP if proposed amendments were not accepted.⁴⁶ FFFNZ sought that SAL policies be implemented only by zone rules, with no rules relating specifically to SAL, and to amend the maps to cover only public land.⁴⁷ The Hill Country Farmers group sought that identification of SAL on private land be subject to the owners' acceptance and contestable.⁴⁸

Section 42A report recommendations

- 10.4 The section 42A report recommended that all the opposing submissions be rejected. The reasons were that the SAL was required by the RPS, the PDP had sufficient public engagement and that the proposed requirement for landowner acceptance would defeat section 7(c) of the RMA. The call for SAL to be limited to public land was rejected because SAL was identified on its merits based on expert analysis, and there should be no distinction based on land ownership.⁴⁹

Evidence

- 10.5 In evidence, Mr Brown advocated for the SAL to be extended from Raglan to Port Waikato from the sea to the skyline, to protect distant views from the Whaanga Coast south of Raglan. In its written statement, WRC said that it supported the section 42A report recommendations but did not provide detailed comments. We received little other evidence from submitters supporting the SAL.

⁴⁵ S and T Stark [701.8].

⁴⁶ Tata Valley Ltd [574,11].

⁴⁷ Federated Farmers of New Zealand [480.42-4].

⁴⁸ Hill Country Farmer Group [482.5].

⁴⁹ Section 42A report, Paragraphs 173 and 179.

- 10.6 Mr and Mrs Stark gave a presentation highlighting the costs and difficulties for landowners from the landscape overlays.
- 10.7 Ms Hill and Mr Hill for the Hill Country Farmers Group in their evidence said that the SAL proposal was poorly defined and not ground-truthed. They too identified costs to landowners from the SAL rules, including from inefficiencies in the rules limiting earthworks volumes on an annual basis, saying that the visual impact of one larger disturbance event is preferable.
- 10.8 More generally, the Hills observed that the attributes that make SALs special exist in the context of current land use and also because the farming landowners already support and protect those attributes. They concluded:
- “HCFG do not believe we need a designation stamped on a map, or specially constructed rules to go with it, when these areas are likely to remain principally unchanged within this current equilibrium.”⁵⁰
- 10.9 Ms Walker in her evidence for FFNZ sought to limit the extent of SALs to public land only. Ms Walker said:
- “24. In our view there is an unnecessary overlap with Rural Zone rules that have been developed, amongst other things, to maintain and enhance amenity values through provisions for managing building bulk and location, subdivision, earthworks, and vegetation clearance. We oppose provisions designed to prioritise an amenity landscape over and above the activities which contribute to those values.”⁵¹
- 10.10 Ms Ryder gave expert evidence in regard to the identification and mapping of the SAL. In the light of our decision, we do not need to traverse that evidence here.

Decision and reasons

- 10.11 Our decision is to delete the SAL overlays in their entirety, including the policies in Chapter 3.4, along with SAL rules and maps. We accept the submissions calling for deletion of the SAL and reject all submissions in support or calling for amendments. Further submissions are decided accordingly. Changes to the PDP to delete SALs are detailed in **Attachments 1 and 2**. The SAL Schedule recommended in the section 42A report is not adopted.
- 10.12 Our reason for deleting the SAL overlay is that we see it as redundant. Removing the SAL policies and rules from the PDP will make no material difference to maintaining landscape values, but it will avoid unnecessary costs to landowners.
- 10.13 The SAL policies are concerned mainly with controlling buildings, earthworks, driveways, and roads to minimise visual impacts within SALs. The same issues are already addressed in objectives and policies in Chapter 5 Rural Environment and we doubt policies 3.4.2-3.4.4 add anything of value.
- 10.14 We agree with Mr and Mrs Hill that the provisions of the Rural Zone (and indeed every zone) place emphasis on maintaining local amenity. Amenity impacts are a

⁵⁰ Evidence of Kirstie Hill and Bruce Hill, Paragraph 28.

⁵¹ Evidence of Hilary Walker for Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Page 5.

consideration in most district plan controls on land use and subdivision.⁵² Controls that aim to preserve visual amenity throughout the Rural Zone include rules on intensive farming, earthworks, light spill, notable trees, signs, indigenous vegetation clearance, building bulk and location, heritage protection, and subdivision design details.

- 10.15 The proposed rules specific to SALs increase the resource consent requirements for intensive farming, earthworks, building height, and subdivision. The common Rural Zone rules require restricted discretionary consents for intensive farming and subdivision in every case, with effects on amenity values a matter of discretion. Under SAL rules these are discretionary applications. It is unclear to us how those additional controls make any material difference to planning outcomes.
- 10.16 The Landscape Study listed the perceived threats to each SAL area. In most areas, threats mentioned include poorly designed subdivision and development, resulting in loss of vegetation cover. Loss of vegetation cover is not referred to in Policies 3.4.2-3.4.4; other PDP provisions address that issue.
- 10.17 SAL rules on earthworks reduce the permitted quantities of earth that can be moved annually. The Hill Country Farmers Group made the point that limiting earthworks volumes on an annual basis might produce more visual impact than one larger disturbance.
- 10.18 SAL rules also reduce permitted building height from 10 metres to 7.5 metres, which we consider a trivial difference in this context.
- 10.19 We see no requirement in the RPS that requires the PDP to contain a SAL overlay. Policy 12.3 of the RPS requires that “areas of amenity value are identified, and those values are maintained and enhanced.” District plans are required to identify and appropriately recognise areas of amenity value to communities (Method 12.3.1).
- 10.20 We consider the zones effectively identify and recognise areas with different amenity values throughout Waikato District, and that the zone policies and rules manage these amenity values appropriately.
- 10.21 We consider that the Rural Zone provisions will still give effect to the RPS, which we note in this respect are generalised and non-prescriptive. We further note the flexibility built into Method 12.3.1(d) of the RPS, which requires us to consider “the changing and evolving nature of land management practices that means the visual amenity values may also change.”
- 10.22 We received evidence about changing land management practices that the PDP needs to provide for. Federated Farmers noted a perverse outcome from the SAL earthworks rule, in that it constrains farmers’ ability to undertake earthworks (e.g., to install new culverts, bridges and tracks) to make the water quality improvements recently mandated by Government.

⁵² For instance, the section 32 Report Part 2 - Rural Zone, dated July 2018, uses the word “amenity” more than 70 times.

10.23 We consider that none of the SAL rules will materially enhance landscape amenity. We accept the evidence that these controls add unnecessary costs and inefficiency to farming activities and may have perverse outcomes.

Objective

10.24 The text of Objective 3.4.1 will be moved from Chapter 3.4 to Chapter 5. This objective calls for landscape values and visual amenity to be maintained and enhanced. It does not mention the SAL overlay. We accept it is a legitimate objective that needs to be retained in the PDP to support rules dealing broadly with landscape values and visual amenity.

10.25 We are transferring Objective 3.4.1 into Objective 5.3.1 Rural character and amenity, which now reads:

“5.3.1 Objective - Rural character and amenity

(a) Rural character and amenity are maintained.

(b) The attributes of areas valued for their contribution to visual amenity are maintained or enhanced.”

10.26 This text is moved in this way to support the Rural Zone rules referring to the effects on visual amenity. Deleting this text entirely would have left the plan with no specific objective promoting visual amenity.

Mapping

10.27 Several submitters, including Genesis Energy and Havelock Village Ltd, opposed the mapping of the SAL on individual properties. These submissions were analysed by Ms Ryder and map adjustments were recommended in the section 42A report.⁵³ For the record, we were prepared to accept the recommended changes. Given our decision to delete the SAL overlay, we do not need to discuss these further. We note here that some of the recommended map changes are carried forward where a SAL has been converted into another overlay, such as Okariha Sand Spit, which is now an ONF.

11 Natural Character Areas

11.1 Section 6(a) of the RMA requires district plans to recognise and provide for preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins.

11.2 The PDP addresses natural character in the coastal environment differently from its approach to that of waterbodies. With this in mind, we will deal with these separately, considering coastal provisions first.

Coastal natural character – objective

⁵³ Section 42A report – Appendix 8 Recommended map changes.

11.3 In relation to the natural character of the coastal environment, Objective 3.5.1 – Natural character reads:

“(a) The high and outstanding natural character of the coastal environment is protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.”

11.4 Objective 3.5.1(a) mentions only high and outstanding natural character areas. Five natural character areas are mapped, one of outstanding natural character and four with high natural character. These areas comprise a small proportion of the coastal environment.

Submissions

11.5 The Department of Conservation sought to delete “high and outstanding” from Objective 3.5.1(a), to reframe it so that it would protect natural character throughout the coastal environment. The section 42A report recommended that this be rejected, saying that the “high” and “outstanding” references are required give effect to the NZCPS and the RPS. The NZCPS requires mapping or the identification of areas of at least high natural character in the coastal environment. The RPS requires district plans to map or otherwise identify areas of high and outstanding natural character in the coastal environment using specified criteria.

11.6 We consider that the objective does not need to refer to “high and outstanding” natural character overlays. The objective would be improved by deleting those words, so that it refers to protection of the natural character of the whole coastal environment, better reflecting section 6(a) of the RMA. We accept the Department of Conservation submission and have deleted “high and outstanding” from objective 3.5.1(a). We reject the other submissions seeking to retain the objective as notified. The NZCPS and RPS are still given effect to by Policy 3.5.3, rules and maps that refer to the overlays.

11.7 FFFNZ sought to delete Policy 3.5.2, on the basis that it is an unnecessary duplication of Policies 3.5.3 and 3.5.4.⁵⁴ We see Policy 3.5.2(a) as clearly necessary, and not a duplication, because it applies wider considerations about natural character than the next policies specific to coast and wetlands. Importantly, it covers the whole coastal environment, not just the overlays. Policy 3.5.2(a) was something of an orphan in the plan as notified because it was drafted wider than its parent objective. However, that issue is resolved by our amendment to Objective 3.5.1(a).

11.8 We agree with FFFNZ that Policy 3.5.2(b) is redundant and can be deleted. It reads:

“(b) Recognise the natural character qualities of the following areas within the coastal environment and identified on the planning maps as:

- (i) Outstanding Natural Character areas; and
- (ii) high (and very high) natural character areas.”

11.9 The reference to “very high” natural character areas is meaningless, as there are no mapped areas called that. The section 42A report recommended “very high” be deleted and the overlay names be presented correctly.⁵⁵ We would accept that recommendation

⁵⁴ Federated Farmers of New Zealand [680.47].

⁵⁵ Section 42A report, Paragraph 320, responding to Housing NZ Corporation [749.93].

but prefer to delete the whole of 3.5.2(b) because it duplicates Policy 3.5.3. Accordingly, we accept the submission in part, to the extent that we delete 3.5.2(b).

11.10 Policy 3.5.3 refers specifically to the “high and outstanding” overlays in the coastal environment. This policy gives effect to the NZCPS and WRPS and we consider it needs to be retained. The amended text is set in full below, after we describe the changes.

11.11 The first change is to align the wording of Policy 3.5.3 to section 6(a) of the RMA so that it reads, “recognise and provide for preservation of [natural character].” “Preservation” was suggested in the evidence of the Department of Conservation. “Recognise” appeared in deleted Policy 3.5.2(b) and has been carried over to Policy 3.5.3.

11.12 The second change arises because we have introduced a new Schedule detailing the attributes of mapped natural character areas as recommended in the section 42A report.⁵⁶ The schedule includes revisions made by Boffa Miskell after the hearing. We have amended Policy 3.5.3 to reference “attributes” in that schedule.

11.13 Like Policy 3.5.2(b), Policy 3.5.3 did not use the correct overlay names. We have corrected this by amending the opening words of Policy 3.5.3.

11.14 The Department of Conservation sought a minor wording change to Policy 3.5.3(a)(iv) to amend “stability of identified coastal dune systems” to read, “functioning of coastal dune systems.” The section 42A report recommended to accept this submission, saying that this amendment is appropriate to reflect the dynamic nature of coastal dune systems, which change between stable and unstable states. We agree and accept the submission for that reason.

11.15 With those four amendments, Policy 3.5.3 now reads:

3.5.3 Policy - Protecting the natural character qualities of the coastal environment

(a) ~~Protect the qualities of outstanding and high natural character areas in the coastal environment~~ Recognise and provide for preservation of the attributes of Outstanding Natural Character Areas and High Natural Character Areas as set out in Schedule 30.7 from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:

- (i) managing the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development;
- (ii) avoiding significant adverse effects of subdivision, use and development;
- (iii) avoiding subdivision, use and development within areas of outstanding natural character, where it would damage, diminish or compromise natural character;
- (iv) avoiding activities that damage the ~~stability of identified~~ functioning of coastal dune systems;
- (v) requiring appropriate building setbacks from riparian and coastal margins;
- (vi) ensuring that activities are carried out in a way that maintains or enhances water quality in the coastal environment;

⁵⁶ Section 42A report, Paragraph 306.

- (vii) enabling and concentrating development within existing settlements to avoid development sprawling along the coastline;
- (viii) recognising historic farming operations that continue today;
- (ix) avoiding the establishment of new plantation forestry.”

11.16 WRC submitted that all the provisions for areas of high and outstanding natural character are the same and called for amendments to set out a different management approach to each. No specific wording was submitted, and WRC did not give evidence to this hearing to clarify the relief sought.

11.17 In response, the section 42A report recommended that high and outstanding natural character areas be identified on the Planning Maps and that schedules be added detailing the attributes of each natural character area. We accept that recommendation. The map changes will help to distinguish the areas. The attributes mentioned in the new Schedules (**Attachments 4 and 5**) will further differentiate the high and outstanding areas, ensuring that resource consent applications are assessed by reference to the effects on the attributes relevant to each area.

Waterbody natural character – objective

11.18 Objective 3.5.1(b) refers generally to protecting the natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers. No waterbodies are identified for individual management in the objective or related policies. Objective 3.5.1 reads:

- (b) The natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.”

Submissions

11.19 WRC requested that a natural character assessment for waterbodies and their margins be undertaken.⁵⁷ The section 42A report rejected this, saying there would be value in a district-wide analysis of natural character, but this would be an enormous and costly exercise that was not justified in the context of the current process; further, affected parties should be allowed to provide input through a Schedule 1 process. We consider that natural character is adequately managed case by case through the PDP provisions, as amended, and a district-wide survey of waterbodies is unnecessary. In our view, the costs of a survey would outweigh any benefits and we agree that a Schedule 1 process, not the current process, would be appropriate for any changes. We reject the submission for all those reasons.

11.20 Tuurangawaewae Trust Board, Waikato-Tainui and Jackie Colliar sought an assessment for the Waikato River to identify any high or outstanding natural character areas. Similar to our comments in the previous paragraph, this is not possible in the current process and we reject those submissions. We note in addition that now that the Waikato River is identified as an ONL, natural character effects of developments will be assessed in consent applications.

11.21 Policy 3.5.4 is to protect the natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, highlighting development effects that need to be assessed.

⁵⁷ WRC [81.24].

11.22 A number of submitters sought to retain Policy 3.5.4 as notified, and we accept those submissions, with the amendment discussed below. The section 42A report recommended rejection of submissions requesting changes to the details of development effects referred to in the policy, and we also reject these for the reasons given, except as discussed below.

11.23 FFNZ sought changes to 3.5.4(a) and addition of a new (b).⁵⁸ Their proposed wording was:

(a) Protect the natural character [of waterbodies] from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by: ...

(ii) minimising, to the extent practicable and necessary, indigenous vegetation clearance and modification (~~including earthworks, disturbance and structures~~);...

(vi) ~~ensuring that activities are carried out in a way that maintains or enhances water quality in the coastal environment;~~...

(viii) recognising ~~historic~~ farming operations ~~that continue today~~;

(b) Determining what is inappropriate use and development will be considered with respect to the level of natural character. Where man-made elements/influences are dominant, it may be appropriate that activities result in further adverse effect on natural character.

11.24 In relation to (a)(ii), the section 42A report rejected the addition of “and necessary” as this would be confusing and unclear.⁵⁹ We agree and reject that part of the submission. The report author agreed that the notified words in brackets were unclear and recommended that (a)(ii) be reworded. We agree this is a useful clarification, and adopt the recommendation, amending (a)(ii) to read:

“(ii) Minimising, to the extent practicable, indigenous vegetation clearance and earthworks disturbance; ~~modification (including earthworks, disturbance and structures)~~;

11.25 We reject the deletion of (a)(vi) as we consider accepting this deletion is contrary to the RPS and NZCPS. We do however accept the deletion of the words “historic” and “that continue today” from (viii), as these are redundant.

11.26 The section 42A report supported the submitted new 3.5.4(b) with rewording. We are not persuaded to adopt this. The suggested changes seem to us to complicate assessment of effects, raising unnecessary questions regarding whether human-made elements or influences are dominant in each context. The extent to which natural character has been compromised by prior development seems to us to be inherent in any assessment of effects on existing character and it need not be stated in the policy.

Rules

⁵⁸ Federated Farmers of New Zealand [680.48, 680.49].

⁵⁹ Section 42A report Paragraphs 226-228.

11.27 Submissions on natural character rules mostly were aimed at reducing the controls on land use likely to adversely affect natural character, and we reject these as contrary to section 6(a) of the RMA, the NZCPS and RPS.

Definitions

11.28 Submissions were made on the definitions of the high and outstanding natural character areas. As notified, these definitions referred to the high and outstanding areas being differentiated on the Planning Maps, when in fact they were not. We have amended the maps to address that, so that issue with the definition is now resolved. The section 42A report recommended to amend the definitions to reference the new schedules. We agree and have amended the definitions to read:

High Natural Character Area	Means an area identified as High Natural Character Area on the planning maps and described in Schedule 30.7
Outstanding Natural Character Area	Means an area identified as an Outstanding Natural Character Area on the planning maps and described in Schedule 30.7

12 Earthworks in Landscape and Natural Character Areas

11.29 Most zones include rules controlling earthworks throughout the zone, with tighter controls in landscape and natural character overlays. These proved contentious, with 32 submissions asking for amendments. Several submitters focused on the earthworks controls in the SAL overlay. While those submissions are resolved by our decision to delete the SAL, their critique of the rules remains relevant to our approach to the other landscape overlays.

11.30 Submitters generally accepted that earthworks can adversely affect landscape and natural character values. The main thrust of the submissions was that the controls in the PDP on areas and volumes of earthworks were tighter than they needed to be and would unnecessarily constrain land use and development. The following issues were highlighted:

- a. The rules unnecessarily control maintenance of existing tracks and fencing;
- b. The PDP should provide for ancillary rural earthworks;
- c. The annual limitation on earthworks may result in perverse outcomes; and
- d. Option to look at similar policy as Infrastructure chapter for “identified areas.”

Maintenance of existing tracks and fencing

11.31 The section 42A report recommended amendments to permit, without restrictions, earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains. Other earthworks would be permitted with simplified conditions. Restricted discretionary consent status was recommended (reduced from discretionary as notified) where permitted activity conditions were not complied with.

Ancillary rural earthworks

11.32 Ms Walker for FFNZ supported the recommendation to permit earthworks, without restrictions, for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences and drains, but said that this approach should be applied more broadly to “ancillary rural earthworks”, which should

also be permitted, subject to compliance with specific conditions designed to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects.⁶⁰

11.33 “Ancillary rural earthworks” is defined in Chapter 13 of the PDP to mean (in summary): earthworks or disturbance of soil associated with cultivation, land preparation for planting and growing operations; harvesting of crops and forests and maintenance; and the construction of facilities for farming and forestry activities, including tracks, roads and landings, stock races, silage pits, drains, effluent ponds, feeding pads, fencing and sediment control.⁶¹

11.34 Ancillary rural earthworks are permitted generally in the Rural Zone by Rule 22.2.3.1 but require resource consent in the landscape overlays under Rule 22.2.3.4.

11.35 The section 42A report author did not accept that ancillary rural earthworks should be permitted in landscape overlays, saying that potential exists for earthworks associated with new development to compromise the attributes of the landscape areas. The author considered it appropriate to test the merits of introducing modifications into these areas (that do not fit into the “maintenance” category) through a resource consent process.⁶²

11.36 We consider that the concept of “ancillary rural earthworks” is too broad to be applied to the landscape overlays, due to their sensitivity to the visual effects of earthworks. We therefore reject the submission for ancillary rural earthworks to be permitted in the landscape overlays for the reasons given in the section 42A report. We also note that some ancillary rural activities will be permitted in any case within the annual earthworks allowances (e.g., new fencing is unlikely to exceed the volume or area limits). Furthermore, the area of farmland controlled by Rule 22.2.3.4 is now much reduced by the deletion of the SAL, and forestry is controlled separately under the NES for Plantation Forestry. As such, many of the submitters’ practical concerns no longer hold.

Annual limitation on earthworks

11.37 Annual limitations on earthworks quantities and areas feature in permitted activity rules for earthworks across the zones and landscape overlays; rules 22.2.3.1 P2(a)(i) and 22.2.3.4 are representative examples. The rules also differ in the quantities and areas permitted annually.

11.38 As noted above, Ms Hill and Mr Hill for the Hill Country Farmers Group opposed annual limitations on earthworks, saying that the visual impact of one larger disturbance event would be preferable to a number of sequential increments. We agree that that might sometimes be the case, but we consider that the annual limitation serves to limit the effects at predictable levels, as is appropriate for a permitted activity. In any case, it would be difficult to draft a permitted activity rule that did not incorporate a temporal measure, whether it be annual or otherwise. The only practical alternative to annual

⁶⁰ Statement of Evidence of Hilary Walker for Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Paragraph 35, dated 20 August 2020.

⁶¹ Paragraph 685 of the Section 42A report for Hearing 5 Definitions considered numerous submissions on this definition. The report noted the overlapping definitions in Chapter 13 of “ancillary rural earthworks” and “rural ancillary earthworks” and changes required to align with the National Planning Standards.

⁶² Section 42A report for Hearing 21A – Significant Natural Areas, Paragraph 262.

controls might be to require resource consents in every case, which would be less favourable to landowners than the rule proposed. We retain the annual limitation for those reasons.

Identified area approach

11.39 Chapter 14 Infrastructure adopts a shorthand way of referring to 12 overlays, calling these collectively “identified areas”. This drafting approach allows the 12 overlays to be referred to in rules collectively, thereby making the rules more streamlined. This has some value in the context of Chapter 14, where most plan users will be professionals who are employed by infrastructure entities. However, we do not favour using that approach elsewhere in the Plan, which needs to be read and understood by a wide cross section of the community. We consider that the revised formatting of the earthworks rules for landscape areas as presented in the section 42A report, where relevant overlays are named, is the preferable approach.

12 Building Rules

- 12.1 A number of submissions were made on the building rules for the landscape areas. The rules, in the individual zone chapters, aim to minimise adverse effects (particularly visual) of buildings in each zonal context. There was some submitter support for the building rules for specific zones, but most sought a less onerous activity status for buildings and structures. Permitted status for modifications to buildings and structures and for buildings ancillary to agricultural production was also requested.
- 12.2 The section 42A report rejected all the opposing submissions, for a number of reasons, including that: existing use rights cover some of the concerns; there is no justification for exempting buildings because of their proposed use; and other matters raised are better assessed through the resource consent process. We accept and adopt the recommendations, including the reasons given. We note that many submissions emanated from concerns about the SAL overlay. With that now deleted, those objections fall away in any case.

13 Mapping

- 13.1 Many submissions were made either supporting or opposing the mapping of the landscape overlays. Submitters sought changes to maps for ONF, ONL, natural character areas and the coastal environment.
- 13.2 We received no supporting evidence from most of these submitters. The section 42A report analysed the submissions, assisted by technical advice from Ms Ryder. Some map changes were recommended.⁶³ We have adopted all the mapping recommendations from the section 42A and subsequent reports, except as discussed separately in this decision. The map changes are summarised below. Except for these changes, all of the ONF, ONL, natural character and coastal environment overlays reviewed in this decision are confirmed as notified.

⁶³ Section 42A report Attachment 8 – Recommended map amendments.

Outstanding Natural Landscapes

- 13.3 The three notified ONLs (Hunua Range, Mt Pirongia and Mt Karioi) were mistakenly shown on the Planning Maps with an ONF shading, or both ONF and ONL shadings. This is corrected by removing the ONF shading and applying the ONL shading in all three areas.⁶⁴
- 13.4 Mt Karioi and Hunua were subject to other mapping errors in the PDP in that the ONF/ONL layer included more land than the Landscape Study had indicated. These errors have been corrected so that the ONL now is shown correctly as per the Landscape Study.⁶⁵
- 13.5 WRC made a submission seeking the Mt Karioi ONL/ONF be extended to include cliffs and headlands along the coastal edge, which are mentioned in Table 12-1 of the RPS.⁶⁶ In accordance with the Landscape Study, all of this coast was included in the SAL, and the ONL/ONF was mapped further inland except for a short coastal stretch west of Whale Bay. The section 42A report, following the advice of Ms Ryder, concluded that the cliffs and headlands were not outstanding, but appropriately managed by the SAL overlay and recommended only a minor adjustment to align the SAL boundary with Council's jurisdictional boundary, being the MHWS.⁶⁷
- 13.6 Our decision to remove the SAL raises a question whether to extend the ONL along the coast or create an ONF to cover cliffs and headlands. We have decided not to do either of those things and we accept the submission in part, only to the extent of correcting mapping to follow the line of the MHWS. Our reasons are:
- a. The southern part of the Karioi coast remains within the High Natural Character Area overlay (Karioi Coastal Area), protecting headlands and cliffs similar to ONL or SAL;
 - b. Further north, the notified ONF/ONL touches the coastline for a short distance west of Whale Bay. Evidence does not support the extension of this from Whale Bay north-west along the coast. While we note the RPS map shows that area, we consider this has only been mapped at a regional scale and the Landscape Study approach should be the preferred. The RPS map includes areas of urban and rural development that could not qualify as "natural." We believe we have discretion to look behind the RPS map and give effect directly to RPS Objective 12.1, which is to protect values and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes. This is achieved by the ONL/ONF notified in the PDP; and
 - c. The Landscape Study concluded that the headlands and cliffs were significant, not outstanding. We received no evidence to contradict that. The community has not been consulted on any proposal to identify these features as ONF. It is relevant that the RPS Explanation after 12.1 states: "The outstanding natural features and landscapes included in section 12A (Table 12-1) were identified

⁶⁴ Ibid, Paragraphs 338; 340(j); 404; 418; 425. Note that at Karioi, the ONL and ONF areas were mapped differently. The notified ONL was incorrect and has been deleted. The notified ONF boundary has been adopted for the replacement ONL.

⁶⁵ Ibid, Paragraphs 447-456.

⁶⁶ WRC [81.184]

⁶⁷ Council Rebuttal Evidence, Paragraph 32, dated 11 September 2020.

without the benefit of consultation with tāngata whenua.” We believe that any additional ONL or ONF in this area requires engagement with all communities.

- 13.7 The Waikato River is added to the plan as an ONL as discussed separately in this decision. The river mapping includes the river channel (waterbody) within the banks, islands and a margin outside the banks on both sides of the river. The margins around the river delta approaching the river mouth are unchanged from the mapped areas notified in PDP. The margin width for the rest of the river is mapped at 37 metres in the Rural, Country Living, Reserves, Village and Industrial zones, and 28 metres in the Residential, Business and Town Centre Zones. The mapped margin is reduced to exclude the Huntly Power Station site.

Outstanding Natural Features

- 13.8 The Okariha Sand Spit, notified as an SAL in the PDP, is changed to an ONF status.
- 13.9 Seven geological features are added as ONF, as discussed separately in this decision. These are: Daff Road Jurassic Plant Beds; Kaawa Creek-Ngatutura Point Section; Opuatia Cliff Jurassic Fauna; Huriwai Beach Jurassic Plant Beds; Moeweka Quarry Jurassic Fauna; Pukekawa Scoria Cone; and Onewhero Tuff Ring and Crater.
- 13.10 The Hakarimata Range ONF is amended to exclude areas of existing productive forestry.⁶⁸
- 13.11 The Taupiri Range ONF is amended to exclude areas within the designation for the Waikato Expressway (State Highway 1).⁶⁹
- 13.12 The Whangamarino Wetland ONF is amended to exclude areas within the designation for the North Island Main Trunk Railway (NIMT) occupied currently by the railway lines and ballast. This arises from Kiwirail [835.2] seeking to remove the ONF overlay entirely from the designated rail through the Whangamarino Wetland. Council rebuttal recommended that the submission be accepted in part, to the extent stated.⁷⁰ We adopt the recommendation, because the designated corridor is very wide in places through the wetland, much wider than used for the railway track. We reject removing the ONF entirely from the designated corridor because this would leave large areas of the wetland unprotected. To provide certainty, our decision is to remove the ONF from a 20-metre wide corridor centred on the existing railway track.

Significant Amenity Landscape

- 13.13 The SAL overlay is removed from the PDP, as discussed separately in this decision. The section 42A report recommended removal or reduction of the SAL in three areas along the river near Bluff Road and Parker Lane. For the record, we accept those recommendations but given the removal of the whole overlay, the amendments will not be implemented now.
- 13.14 The Okariha Sand Spit, notified as SAL in the PDP, is changed to an ONF status.

⁶⁸ Section 42A report, Paragraphs 351-361.

⁶⁹ Ibid, Paragraphs 414 and Attachment 8.

⁷⁰ Council Rebuttal Evidence, Section 3.2, dated 11 September 2020.

Natural Character Areas

- 13.15 The only map change in regard to the natural character overlay is to separately identify the Outstanding Natural Character Area from the High Natural Character Areas.

Coastal Environment

- 13.16 The coastal environment was mapped in the PDP, adopting the equivalent map in the RPS. The section 42A report identified an error in the coastal environment map vicinity of Port Waikato where the PDP map deviated from the RPS. The report recommended the error be corrected.

14 Conclusion

- 14.1 We accept and reject the section 42A report and the evidence filed by the submitters for the reasons given in this Decision, collectively forming the section 32AA assessment informing this Decision.
- 14.2 Overall, we are satisfied that the landscape provisions as amended will provide a suitable framework for land use and development within identified landscape areas.

For the Hearings Panel



Dr Phil Mitchell, Chair

Dated: 17 January 2022

Attachments

Attachment 1: Amendments to Objectives and Policies in Chapter 3.3.4 and 3.5

Red text indicates changes made in the decision. Words deleted are shown struck through. Words added are underlined.

3.3 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

3.3.1 Objective – Outstanding natural features and landscapes

- (a) Outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes and their attributes are recognised and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

3.3.2 Policy – Recognising values and qualities

(a) Recognise and protect the attributes of outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes as set out in Schedule 30.6.

- ~~(a) Recognise the attributes of the district's mountains, bush clad ranges and hill country identified as Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes including:~~
- ~~(i) — ridgelines and valleys;~~
 - ~~(ii) — significant ecological values;~~
 - ~~(iii) — indigenous bush and the extent of this bush cover;~~
 - ~~(iv) — cultural heritage values associated with these areas;~~
 - ~~(v) — recreational attributes including walking and access tracks;~~
 - ~~(vi) — existing water reservoirs and dams;~~
 - ~~(vii) — existing pastoral farming activities on the margins of these areas;~~
- ~~(b) Recognise the attributes of the Waikato River and wetlands, Whangamarino Wetland and Lake Whangape identified as Outstanding Natural Features, including:~~
- ~~(i) — natural geomorphology, hydrological processes;~~
 - ~~(ii) — significant habitat values;~~
 - ~~(iii) — significant indigenous vegetation;~~
 - ~~(iv) — cultural heritage values associated with these areas;~~
 - ~~(v) — recreational use of these areas; and~~
 - ~~(vi) — existing pastoral farming activities on the margins of these areas.~~
- ~~(c) Recognise the attributes of the west coast dunes identified as outstanding natural features, including:~~
- ~~(i) — natural geomorphology, patterns and processes;~~
 - ~~(ii) — significant habitat values;~~
 - ~~(iii) — significant indigenous vegetation;~~
 - ~~(iv) — cultural heritage values associated with these areas; and~~
 - ~~(v) — existing pastoral farming activities on the margins of these areas.~~

3.3.3 Policy – Protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development

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~~(a) Ensure that the attributes of identified Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:~~

~~(aa) Avoid adverse effects of activities on the attributes of Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the coastal environment.~~

~~(ab) Avoid adverse effects of activities on the attributes of Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes outside the coastal environment, and if avoidance is not possible remedy or mitigate the adverse effects, by:~~

~~(i) requiring buildings and structures to be integrated into the Outstanding Natural Landscape or feature to minimise any visual impacts;~~

~~(ii) managing the adverse effects of building platforms, driveways and roads through appropriate subdivision design; and~~

~~(iii) requiring subdivision and development to retain views of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and features from public places; and~~

~~(iv) avoiding the adverse effects of extractive industries and earthworks.~~

~~(ac) Avoid the adverse effects of extractive industries and earthworks on the attributes of Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes.~~

3.3.4 Policy - The relationships of Maaori with natural resources and land

- (a) Provide for the consideration of cultural and spiritual relationships of Maaori with Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes as part of subdivision, use and development.
- (b) Provide for the development of Maaori Freehold Land, within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, including within the Whaanga Coast Specific Area.
- (c) Provide for Maaori cultural and customary uses of natural resources, including land, water and other natural resources as an integral part of identified Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

3.4 Significant Amenity Landscapes

3.4.1 Objective – Significant amenity landscapes

~~(a) The attributes of areas and features valued for their contribution to landscape values and visual amenity are maintained or enhanced.~~

3.4.2 Policy – Recognising Significant Amenity Landscapes

~~(a) Recognise the attributes which contribute to identified Significant Amenity Landscapes~~

3.4.3 Policy – Maintaining and enhancing Significant Amenity Landscapes

~~(a) Maintain and enhance the attributes of identified Significant Amenity Landscapes, during subdivision, land use and development, in particular by:~~

~~(i) requiring buildings and structures to be integrated into the Significant Amenity Landscape to minimise any visual impacts;~~

~~(ii) managing the adverse effects of building platforms, buildings, driveways and roads through appropriate subdivision design;~~

~~(iii) providing for the continuation of farming activities within hill country landscapes and volcanic features;~~

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- ~~(iv) managing the adverse effects of earthworks; and~~
- ~~(v) promoting and encouraging maintenance and enhancement of their attributes.~~

~~3.4.4 Policy – The relationships of Maaori with their resources and land~~

- ~~(a) Provide for the cultural and spiritual relationships of Maaori with Significant Amenity Landscapes during subdivision, use and development.~~
- ~~(b) Provide for the development of Maaori Freehold Land within Significant Amenity Landscapes.~~
- ~~(c) Provide for Maaori cultural and customary uses of natural resources, including land, water and other natural resources as an integral part of identified Significant Amenity Landscapes.~~

3.5.1 Objectives – Natural Character

- (a) The ~~high and Outstanding~~ Natural Character of the coastal environment is protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- (b) The natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

3.5.2 Policies – Recognising natural character

- (a) Recognise the following natural elements, patterns, processes and experiential qualities which contribute to natural character:
 - (i) areas or waterbodies in their natural states or close to their natural state;
 - (ii) coastal or freshwater landforms and landscapes;
 - (iii) coastal or freshwater physical processes, including the movement of water and sediment;
 - (iv) biodiversity;
 - (v) biological processes and patterns;
 - (vi) water flows and levels, and water quality; and
 - (vii) the experience of the above elements, patterns and processes.
- ~~(b) Recognise the natural character qualities of the following areas within the coastal environment and identified on the planning maps as:~~
 - ~~(i) Outstanding Natural Character areas; and~~
 - ~~(ii) high (and very high) natural character areas.~~

3.5.3 Policy - Protecting the natural character qualities of the coastal environment

- (a) ~~Protect the qualities of outstanding and high natural character areas in the coastal environment~~
Recognise and provide for preservation of the attributes of Outstanding Natural Character Areas and High Natural Character Areas as set out in Schedule 30.7 from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:
 - (i) managing the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development;
 - (ii) avoiding significant adverse effects of subdivision, use and development;
 - (iii) avoiding subdivision, use and development within areas of outstanding natural character, where it would damage, diminish or compromise natural character;
 - (iv) avoiding activities that damage the ~~stability of identified~~ functioning of coastal dune systems;
 - (v) requiring appropriate building setbacks from riparian and coastal margins;
 - (vi) ensuring that activities are carried out in a way that maintains or enhances water quality in the coastal environment;
 - (vii) enabling and concentrating development within existing settlements to avoid development sprawling along the coastline;
 - (viii) recognising ~~historic~~ farming operations ~~that continue today~~;

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- (ix) avoiding the establishment of new plantation forestry.

3.5.4 Policy - Protecting the natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins

- (a) Protect the natural character qualities of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:
 - (i) ensuring that location, intensity, scale and form of subdivision, use and development are appropriate;
 - (ii) minimising, to the extent practicable, indigenous vegetation clearance and earthworks disturbance ~~modification (including earthworks, disturbance and structures)~~;
 - (iii) encouraging any new activities to consolidate within, and around, existing developments or, where the natural character and landscape values have already been compromised, to avoid development sprawling; and
 - (iv) requiring appropriate setbacks of activities from wetlands, lakes and rivers.

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Attachment 2: Amendments to Chapters 5, 12 and 13

Chapter 5: Rural Environment

Objective	Amendment
Objective 5.3.1 Rural Character and Amenity:	Add to Objective 5.3.1 Rural Character and Amenity: <u>“(b) The attributes of areas and features valued for their contribution to landscape values and visual amenity are maintained or enhanced.”</u>

Chapter 13: Definitions

Amendments in red:

Definition	Meaning
High Natural Character Area	means an area identified as a High Natural Character Area on the planning maps <u>and described in Schedule 30.7</u>
Outstanding Natural Character Area	means an area identified as an Outstanding Natural Character Area on the planning maps <u>and described in Schedule 30.7</u>
Outstanding Natural Feature	means a feature identified as an Outstanding Natural Feature on the planning maps <u>and described in Schedule 30.6.</u>
Outstanding Natural Landscape	means a landscape identified as an Outstanding Natural Landscape on the planning maps <u>and described in Schedule 30.6</u>
Significant Amenity Landscape	means an area identified as a Significant Amenity Landscape on the planning maps.

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Attachment 3: Rule Changes – Chapters 16-25

Simple amendments are described indicatively, rather than full wording.

Earthworks rules are shown for clarity as complete replacements for existing rules.

Chapter 16 Residential Zone

Rule	Amendment
16.2.4.4 Earthworks – Landscape and Natural Character Areas	See below
16.4 Subdivision	Delete from 16.4(2)(d)(iii) “ Significant Amenity Landscape ”
16.4.7 Title boundaries ...	Delete RD1(a)(ii)C: “ C. Significant Amenity Landscape ”

16.2.4.4 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas

P1

Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains within an identified landscape or natural character area.

P2

Earthworks that meet all of the following standards:

(a) earthworks are completed within a 12 month period

(b) earthworks do not exceed the following areas and volumes:

<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>
<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>
<u>High Natural Character Area</u>		
<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>		
<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>		
<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>		

(c) the height of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1.5 metres

(d) the maximum slope of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1:2 (1 metre vertical to 2 metres horizontal)

(e) areas exposed by the earthworks are re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 6 months of commencing the earthworks

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	(f) <u>sediment is retained on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls</u>
	(g) <u>there is no diversion or change to natural water flows, water bodies or established drainage paths.</u>
<u>RDI</u>	<p>(a) <u>Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 16.2.4.4 P1 or P2.</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>for areas within the coastal environment, whether avoidance of adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character is achieved in the first instance, and if avoidance is not achievable, remedied or otherwise mitigated.</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>for areas outside the coastal environment, the extent to which adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character area are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</u></p>

Chapter 20 General Industrial Zone

Rule	Amendment
20.2.5.3 Earthworks – Landscape and Natural Character Areas	See below
20.3 Land Use - Building	Delete from (2): “ Significant Amenity Landscape ”
20.3.2 Building height in an Outstanding Natural Feature or Significant Amenity Landscape.	<p>Amend rule title by deleting the words: “or Significant Amenity Landscape”</p> <p>Delete P1(a)(ii): “(ii) 7.5m in a Significant Amenity Landscape.”</p>

20.2.5.3 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas

P1	<u>Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains within an identified landscape or natural character area.</u>							
P2	<p><u>Earthworks that meet all the following standards:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>earthworks are completed within a 12 month period</u></p> <p>(b) <u>earthworks do not exceed the following areas and volumes:</u></p> <table><tr><th><u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u></th><th><u>Area (m²)</u></th><th><u>Volume (m³)</u></th></tr><tr><td><u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u></td><td rowspan="2"></td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr><tr><td><u>High Natural Character Area</u></td></tr></table>	<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u>			<u>High Natural Character Area</u>
<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>						
<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u>								
<u>High Natural Character Area</u>								

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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u></td><td><u>50</u></td><td><u>250</u></td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>			<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>			
<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>									
<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>											
<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>											
	<p>(c) <u>the height of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1.5 metres</u></p> <p>(d) <u>the maximum slope of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1:2 (1 metre vertical to 2 metres horizontal)</u></p> <p>(e) <u>areas exposed by the earthworks are re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 6 months of commencing the earthworks</u></p> <p>(f) <u>sediment is retained on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls</u></p> <p>(g) <u>there is no diversion or change to natural water flows, water bodies or established drainage paths.</u></p>										
<u>RDI</u>	<p>(a) <u>Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 20.2.5.3 P1 or P2.</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>for areas within the coastal environment, whether avoidance of adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character is achieved in the first instance, and if avoidance is not achievable, remedied or otherwise mitigated.</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>for areas outside the coastal environment, the extent to which adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character area are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</u></p>										

Chapter 21 Heavy Industrial Zone

Rule	Amendment
21.2.5.3 Earthworks – Landscape and Natural Character Areas	See below
21.3.2 Building height in an Outstanding Natural Feature or Significant Amenity Landscape.	<p>Amend rule title to read: "Building height in an Outstanding Natural Feature or Significant Amenity Landscape"</p> <p>Delete P2: P2 The maximum height of a building must not exceed 7.5m in a Significant Amenity Landscape.</p>

21.2.5.3 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas

<u>P1</u>	<u>Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains with an identified landscape or natural character area.</u>
<u>P2</u>	<p><u>Earthworks that meet all of the following standards:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>earthworks are completed within a 12 month period</u></p> <p>(b) <u>earthworks do not exceed the following areas and volumes:</u></p>

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	<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>
	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>
	<u>High Natural Character Area</u>		
	<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>		
	<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>		
	<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>		
	<p>(c) <u>the height of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1.5 metres</u></p> <p>(d) <u>the maximum slope of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1:2 (1 metre vertical to 2 metres horizontal)</u></p> <p>(e) <u>areas exposed by the earthworks are re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 6 months of commencing the earthworks</u></p> <p>(f) <u>sediment is retained on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls</u></p> <p>(g) <u>there is no diversion or change to natural water flows, water bodies or established drainage paths.</u></p>		
<u>RDI</u>	<p>(a) <u>Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 21.2.5.3 P1 or P2.</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matter:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>the extent to which adverse effects from earthworks on the visual, landscape and ecological attributes of the identified landscape or natural character area are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</u></p>		

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Chapter 22 Rural Zone

Rule	Amendment
22.1.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete RD1(b)(iii) “(iii) A Significant Amenity Landscape.”
22.2.3.4 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See full text of rule below
22.2.8 Indigenous vegetation clearance - outside a Significant Natural Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete from RD1(b)(v) “and significant amenity landscapes.”
22.3.4.1 Height - Building General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete P2
22.4.2 Title boundaries – [various overlays]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule title - Delete “Significant Amenity Landscape,” RD1(a) - Delete “Significant Amenity Landscape,” RD1(a)(iii) – Delete “C. Significant Amenity Landscape.”
22.4.5 Subdivision within identified areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D1(a)(v) - delete “(v) Significant Amenity Landscape dune.”
22.8.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities [Lakeside]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RD1(b)(iii) – delete “(iii) A Significant Amenity Landscape.”

22.2.3.4 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas

<u>P1</u>	<u>Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains within an identified landscape or natural character area.</u>		
<u>P2</u>	<u>Earthworks that meet all of the following standards:</u> (a) <u>earthworks are completed within a 12 month period</u> (b) <u>earthworks do not exceed the following areas and volumes:</u>		
	<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m2)</u>	<u>Volume (m3)</u>
	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Hill Country</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Waikato River Margins and Lakes</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u>	<u>50</u> <u>250</u>	
	<u>High Natural Character Area</u>		
	<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>		

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	<table><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u></td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u></td></tr></table>	<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>		<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>	
<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>					
<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>					
	<p>(c) <u>the height of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1.5 metres</u></p> <p>(d) <u>the maximum slope of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1:2 (1metre vertical to 2 metres horizontal)</u></p> <p>(e) <u>areas exposed by the earthworks are re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 6 months of commencing the earthworks</u></p> <p>(f) <u>sediment is retained on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls</u></p> <p>(g) <u>there is no diversion or change to natural water flows, water bodies or established drainage paths.</u></p>				
<u>RD1</u>	<p>(a) <u>Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 22.2.3.4 P1 or P2.</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>for areas within the coastal environment, whether avoidance of adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character is achieved in the first instance, and if avoidance is not achievable, remedied or otherwise mitigated.</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>for areas outside the coastal environment, the extent to which adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character area are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</u></p>				

Chapter 23 Country Living Zone

Rule	Amendment
23.2.3.4 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas	See below
23.2.9 Indigenous vegetation clearance outside a Significant Natural Area	Delete from RD1(b)(v) " significant amenity landscapes "
23.4 Subdivision	Delete from 23.4(2)(ii) " Significant Amenity Landscape "
23.4.3 Subdivision within identified areas	Delete D23(a)(v): " (v) Significant Amenity Landscape dune "
23.4.4 Title boundaries ...	Delete from RD1(a): " Significant Amenity Landscape " Delete RD1(a)(iii)C: " C. Significant Amenity Landscape "

23.2.3.4 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas

<u>P1</u>	<u>Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains within an identified landscape or natural character area.</u>
<u>P2</u>	<p><u>Earthworks that meet all of the following standards:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>earthworks are completed within a 12 month period</u></p> <p>(b) <u>earthworks do not exceed the following areas and volumes:</u></p>

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	<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>	
	Significant Amenity Landscape – Hill Country	1000	500	
	Significant Amenity Landscape – Waikato River Margins and Lakes	500	500	
	Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune	50	250	
	High Natural Character Area			
	Outstanding Natural Character Area			
	Outstanding Natural Feature			
	Outstanding Natural Landscape			
	<p>(c) <u>the height of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1.5 metres</u></p> <p>(d) <u>the maximum slope of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1:2 (1metre vertical to 2 metres horizontal)</u></p> <p>(e) <u>areas exposed by the earthworks are re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 6 months of commencing the earthworks</u></p> <p>(f) <u>sediment is retained on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls</u></p> <p>(g) <u>there is no diversion or change to natural water flows, water bodies or established drainage paths.</u></p>			
<u>RDI</u>	<p>(a) <u>Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 23.2.3.4 P1 or P2.</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>for areas within the coastal environment, whether avoidance of adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character is achieved in the first instance, and if avoidance is not achievable, remedied or otherwise mitigated.</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>for areas outside the coastal environment, the extent to which adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character area are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</u></p>			

Chapter 24 Village Zone

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Amendment</u>
24.2.4.4 Earthworks – Landscape and Natural Character Areas	See below
24.4 Subdivision	Delete from 23.4(2)(b)(iii) "Significant Amenity Landscape dune"

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24.4.3 Subdivision within identified areas	Delete D23(a)(v): " (v) Significant Amenity Landscape dune "
24.4.5 Title boundaries ...	Delete from rule title: " Significant Amenity Landscape " Delete RD1(a)(ii)C: " C. Significant Amenity Landscape "

24.2.4.4 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas

P1	<u>Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains within an identified landscape or natural character area.</u>										
P2	<p><u>Earthworks that meet all of the following standards:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>earthworks are completed within a 12 month period</u></p> <p>(b) <u>earthworks do not exceed the following areas and volumes:</u></p> <table><tr><th><u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u></th><th><u>Area (m²)</u></th><th><u>Volume (m³)</u></th></tr><tr><td><u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u></td><td rowspan="5"><u>50</u></td><td rowspan="5"><u>250</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>High Natural Character Area</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u></td></tr></table> <p>(c) <u>the height of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1.5 metres</u></p> <p>(d) <u>the maximum slope of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1:2 (1 metre vertical to 2 metres horizontal)</u></p> <p>(e) <u>areas exposed by the earthworks are re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 6 months of commencing the earthworks</u></p> <p>(f) <u>sediment is retained on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls</u></p> <p>(g) <u>there is no diversion or change to natural water flows, water bodies or established drainage paths.</u></p>	<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>High Natural Character Area</u>	<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>	<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>	<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>
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<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>									
<u>High Natural Character Area</u>											
<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>											
<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>											
<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>											
RDI	<p>(a) <u>Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 24.2.4.4 P1 or P2.</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Council’s discretion is restricted to the following matters:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>for areas within the coastal environment, whether avoidance of adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character is achieved in the first instance, and if avoidance is not achievable, remedied or otherwise mitigated.</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>for areas outside the coastal environment, the extent to which adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character area are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</u></p>										

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Chapter 25 Reserves Zone

25.2.4.4 Earthworks – within Landscape and Natural Character Areas

P1	<u>Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains within an identified landscape or natural character area.</u>																
P2	<u>Earthworks that meet all of the following standards:</u> <u>(a) earthworks are completed within a 12 month period</u> <u>(b) earthworks do not exceed the following areas and volumes:</u> <table><tr><th><u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u></th><th><u>Area (m²)</u></th><th><u>Volume (m³)</u></th></tr><tr><td><u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Hill Country</u></td><td><u>1000</u></td><td><u>500</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Waikato River Margins and Lakes</u></td><td><u>500</u></td><td><u>500</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u> <u>Waikato River</u> <u>Outstanding Cultural Landscape</u></td><td rowspan="5"><u>50</u></td><td rowspan="5"><u>250</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>High Natural Character Area</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u></td></tr><tr><td><u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u></td></tr></table> <u>(c) the height of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1.5 metres</u> <u>(d) the maximum slope of the resulting cut or batter face in stable ground does not exceed 1:2 (1metre vertical to 2 metres horizontal)</u> <u>(e) areas exposed by the earthworks are re-vegetated to achieve 80% ground cover within 6 months of commencing the earthworks</u> <u>(f) sediment is retained on the site through implementation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls</u> <u>(g) there is no diversion or change to natural water flows, water bodies or established drainage paths.</u>	<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Hill Country</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Waikato River Margins and Lakes</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u> <u>Waikato River</u> <u>Outstanding Cultural Landscape</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>High Natural Character Area</u>	<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>	<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>	<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>
<u>Landscape or Natural Character Area identified on the planning maps and in Schedules 30.6 and 30.7</u>	<u>Area (m²)</u>	<u>Volume (m³)</u>															
<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Hill Country</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>500</u>															
<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – Waikato River Margins and Lakes</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>															
<u>Significant Amenity Landscape – sand dune</u> <u>Waikato River</u> <u>Outstanding Cultural Landscape</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>250</u>															
<u>High Natural Character Area</u>																	
<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>																	
<u>Outstanding Natural Feature</u>																	
<u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>																	
RDI	<u>(a) Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 25.2.4.4 P1 or P2.</u>																

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	<p>(b) <u>Council's discretion is restricted to the following matters:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>for areas within the coastal environment, whether avoidance of adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character is achieved in the first instance, and if avoidance is not achievable, remedied or otherwise mitigated.</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>for areas outside the coastal environment, the extent to which adverse effects from earthworks on the attributes of the identified landscape or natural character area are avoided, remedied or mitigated.</u></p>
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Attachment 4: Schedule of ONF and ONL

Amend proposed Waikato District Plan by adding this Schedule after Schedule 30.5:

Schedule 30.6 Attributes of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Contents

<u>Assessment of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</u>
<u>Outstanding Natural Landscapes:</u>
• <u>Hunua Ranges - Bush clad ranges including reservoirs</u>
• <u>Karioi - Upper bush clad slopes, including some built development</u>
• <u>Pirongia - Pirongia Forest Park</u>
• <u>Waikato River and Wetlands, including Okariha Sand Spit and margins</u>
<u>Outstanding Natural Features</u>
• <u>Pouraureroa Stream Bush</u>
• <u>Horea - Rangitoto Point</u>
• <u>Whangamarino Wetland</u>
• <u>Lake Waikare and Lake Whangape</u>
• <u>Te Hoe - Native bush and summit</u>
• <u>Taupiri Range - Bush covered slopes</u>
• <u>Hakarimata Range</u>
• <u>Kokako Hills</u>
• <u>Manuaitu including - Wairēinga (Bridal Veil Falls) / Te Pahi / Oioroa</u>
• <u>Geographical features:</u>
○ <u>Daff Road Jurassic Plant Beds</u>
○ <u>Kaawa Creek-Ngatutura Point Section</u>
○ <u>Moeweka Quarry Jurassic Fauna</u>
○ <u>Opuatia Cliff Jurassic Fauna</u>
○ <u>Huriwai Beach Jurassic Plant Beds</u>
○ <u>Pukekawa Scoria Cone.</u>

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Assessment of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Introduction:

Waikato District Council engaged Boffa Miskell Ltd to review the existing Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Regionally Significant Features and Landscapes. As part of the review current case law was considered against the criteria set out under 12B of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement. This criteria was considered consistent with the current case law and Section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991. Twelve ~~42~~ Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes were identified as meeting the status of Outstanding at a Regional Level. The methodology adopted uses the Pigeon Bay criteria applied in *Wakatipu Environmental Society Inc v Queenstown Lakes District Council EnvC Christchurch C180/99*, 29 October 1999; (2000) NZRMA 59, referring to the same established in *Pigeon Bay Aquaculture Ltd v Canterbury Regional Council EnvC Christchurch C32/99*, 8 March 1999; [1999] NZRMA 209 at [231-232].

Landscape Values:

Identification of landscape values comprise subjective judgement as landscape and their features are valued differently by different people for a range of reasons. Experiences of a landscape can vary from long term management of a landscape to short visits. An individual's background and understanding of the local, regional and national landscapes contribute to the evaluation of landscape. Memories, cultural associations, heritage and individual interpretation of what is 'beautiful' are some of the contributing factors as to why people see landscapes differently.

Assessment Criteria	Waikato Regional Policy Statement	Method
A recent review by the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA) has reordered the criteria into three categories, focusing on the landscapes broad Biophysical, Sensory and Associative values. Condensing the Pigeon Bay criteria or factors into these three broad categories reduces the risk of emphasising some criteria at the cost of others and enables assessors to interpret the landscape values with validity and reliability.	Set out in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement the criteria are considered to be as follows:	The method of assessment involves the following:
Biophysical Biophysical features, patterns and processes may be natural and/or cultural in origin and range from the geology and landform that shape a landscape to the physical artefacts such as roads that mark human settlement and livelihood. Can include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Geological Values – Ecological and Biological Values 	Natural - the characteristics of intactness, health and significance of natural landscape features including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geology, geomorphology, and resultant topography • Hydrology (hydrological features and processes) • soil and natural vegetation, • Ecology (the health and significance of ecological attributes). 	Data sets including contour data, vegetation patterns, ecological significance, conservation zones and geology were analysed. Geopreservation site data was considered.

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	<u>Human ('cultural') - the characteristics of human features, any inherent cultural significance, and the manner in which they relate to the underlying natural setting including: Land use, Human vegetation patterns, building, structures and settlements, road networks.</u>	<u>Publications, community group initiatives and site educational material was reviewed.</u>
<p><u>Sensory</u> <u>Sensory qualities are landscape phenomena as directly perceived by humans, such as the view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore.</u> <u>Can include but not limited to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Aesthetic Values;</u> - <u>Memorability;</u> - <u>Naturalness;</u> - <u>Vividness;</u> - <u>Transient Values; and</u> - <u>Other Sensory beyond visual or aesthetic</u> 	<p><u>Visual and aesthetic characteristics including:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Expressiveness – the manner in which biophysical features (including landforms, water-bodies and natural vegetation) express natural processes and patterns;</u> • <u>Legibility (in the sense of way-finding and orientation) – the role of landscapes and features as landmarks, boundaries, areas with a distinctive character (taking the 3D sequential experience into account)</u> • <u>Picturesqueness / Composition (including such attributes as the presence of water, contrast of shadow and light, perspective depth, focal-points, the mix of openness and enclosure, and the overall composition of landscape elements)</u> • <u>Coherence (the manner in which different elements relate to each other including the intactness of natural landscapes and the extent to which human elements and patterns reflect the natural structure of the landscape)</u> 	<p><u>Geomorphological processes were reviewed with the assistance of topographical and hydrological mapping combined with field assessment.</u></p> <p><u>The prominence of a landscape and the analysis of a landscapes features were undertaken through field work, contour mapping, registered sites of ecological and geopreservation significance. Scale and context were key in the evaluation of this attribute</u></p>

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<u>Associative</u> <u>Associative meanings are spiritual, cultural or social associations with particular landscape elements, features or areas such as paa, kaainga, tupuna awa, mahinga kai and waahi tapu, or other sites of historic events or heritage. Associative activities are patterns of social activity that occur in particular parts of a landscape or example popular walking routes or fishing spots</u> <u>Can include but not limited to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Shared and Recognised Values</u> - <u>Tangata Whenua Values</u> - <u>Heritage and Cultural Values</u> 	<u>Values or meanings associated with a landscape including such matters as:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Naturalness associations (such as 'wilderness' values), 'Sense of place' the manner in which landscapes convey a distinctive local character (cultural or natural)</u> • <u>Historical associations (where relevant to appreciation of the landscape)</u> • <u>Tangata whenua associations (where relevant to appreciation of the landscape)</u> • <u>Recreational uses based fundamentally on landscape qualities</u> • <u>Emblematic attributes (for instance where a feature has been adopted as an icon for a community)</u> 	<u>Information is taken from the Coastal Historic Heritage Review Project: Historic Heritage Inventory 2006 and a review of other relevant publications.</u> <u>Review of information collated from iwi and hapuu management plans, Treaty Settlement documents, customary fishing recognitions provided under the Fisheries Act.</u>
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<u>Te Ao Maaori</u>		
<u>Landscape is a multi-dimensional concept and includes natural science, heritage, cultural, aesthetic and a number of other values. Landscapes are valued differently by different people for a range of reasons. Our world views, upbringing and education will all influence our response to particular landscapes. Maaori understanding of, and attitudes to, landscape can be significantly different from those of non-Maaori. For most of us, our connection to the landscapes around us is deep-rooted. It is likely to involve culture, heritage, memories and much more. Therefore, it is essential that the process of evaluation adopted by this study is as transparent as possible. For this reason, the collaboration and inclusion of evaluation by the Waikato District Council's Iwi Reference Group is an important part of understanding the Maaori world view and value attributed to landscape. In order to determine the value attributed to the broader and distinctive features and landscapes, the set of evaluation criteria has been established in collaboration with the Iwi Reference Group. Meaningful criteria have been applied to the landscape attributes above to include a generic Maaori world view approach. These criteria draw from the Waikato Regional Council's Regional Policy Statement Table 10.2 Maaori Culture & Traditions Assessment Criteria. Maaori are made up of diverse realities, and iwi and hapuu may have different ways of expressing evaluation criteria, values and landscape attributes in accordance with their history and tikanga.</u>		
<u>Mauri</u>	<u>Ko te mauri me te mana o te waahi, te taonga raanei, e ngaakaunuitia ana e te Maaori. The mauri (for example life force) and mana (for example prestige) of the place or resource holds special significance to Maaori.</u>	
<u>Waahi tapu</u>	<u>Ko teeraa waahi, taonga raanei, he waahi tapu, araa, he tino whakahirahira ki ngaa tikanga, ki ngaa puri mahara, ki te taha wairua hoki o te Maaori.</u>	

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	<u>The place or resource is a waahi tapu of special, cultural, historic and or spiritual importance to Maaori.</u>	
<u>Koorero-o-mua</u> <u>Historical Importance</u>	<u>Ko teeraa waahi e ngaakaunuitia ana e te Maaori ki roto i oona koorero-o-mua me oona tikanga.</u> <u>The place has special historical and cultural significance to Maaori.</u>	<u>Korero-o-mua refer to places that are important due to particular historical and traditional associations (in pre-European history).</u>
<u>Rawa tuuturu</u> <u>Customary Resources</u>	<u>He waahi teeraa e kawea ai ngaa rawa tuuturu a te Maaori.</u> <u>The place provides important customary resources for Maaori.</u>	<u>Rawa tuturu means the cultural value of places that provide, or once provided, important customary resources to tangata whenua. Customary resources might include food and materials necessary to sustain life in pre-European and post-European times.</u>
<u>Hiahia tuuturu</u> <u>Customary resources</u>	<u>He waahi teeraa e pupuru nei i ngaa tikanga ahurea, wairua hoki o te Maaori</u> <u>The place or resource is a venue or repository for Maaori cultural practices and spiritual values.</u>	<u>Hiahiatanga tuuturu means those parts of the landscape that are important for the exercise of tikanga – the principles and practices to maintain the mauri of parts of the natural world. This might be a place where a particular ritual is performed or a particular feature that is noted for its ability to identify the boundaries of ancestral tribal lands</u>
<u>Whakaaronui o te waa</u> <u>Contemporary</u> <u>significance</u>	<u>He waahi rongonui teeraa ki ngaa Maaori, araa, he waahi whakaahuru, he waahi whakawaihanga, he waahi tuku maatauranga raanei.</u> <u>The place has special amenity, architectural or educational significance to Maaori.</u>	<u>Whakaaronui o te waa refers to the contemporary relationships tangata whenua have with Maaori heritage places. Appreciation of features for their beauty, pleasantness, and aesthetic values is important to tangata whenua. Recreational values attributed to features are also important to tangata whenua as they illustrate the relationship that individuals</u>

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Outstanding Natural Landscapes: **Hunua Ranges - Bush clad ranges including reservoirs**

Description:

The Hunua Ranges rise from above the 200m contour to high points in the 400 to 500m asl range, including Mangatangi at 478m asl. The landform is deeply dissected with steep valleys separated by narrow ridges. The area contains its cover of native vegetation and resides mostly within DOC and Auckland Council reserves.

The landform has undergone some modification with the inclusion of two water catchment reservoirs of Mangatangi and Mangatawhiri within the District boundary. These include large dam structures. Some areas have been cleared for pasture with cattle being grazed. And there is evidence of invasion of exotic tree and other weed species around the perimeter of the bush. The native bush cover and habitat includes a range of moderate to outstanding wildlife value, with areas of the Mangatawhiri Reservoir having moderate wildlife value.

The contiguous native bush cover provides a high level of aesthetic coherence throughout the landscape. The remote location contributes to a sense of remoteness with access only gained via limited vehicle and walking tracks. Forming the northern boundary of the Waikato District the ranges comprises a high level of legibility and vividness. This results from the dramatic transition from low rolling and plains farmland to the steep and deeply incised bush clad Hunua Range.

As a plentiful food source and with high vantage points the Hunua Range comprises numerous historical cultural sites, particularly at the southern interface with the lowlands. Renowned as the largest native forest in the Auckland Region the Hunua Ranges straddle Auckland Region and Waikato District. Common associative values attributed to the landscape are associated with walking and tramping experiences, cultural heritage values attributed by tangata whenua and the seasonal changes that occur throughout the year.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi, Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Koheriki, Ngaati Tamaoho, Ngaati Te Ata and Ngai Tai.

Marae | Mangatangi, Ngaa Hau e Whaa and Umupuia.

Mauri

Manawhenua, traditional relationship and history, continues to be a cultural resource for our people, bound to our relationship and our culture and traditions with our ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

He waahi tapu o ngaa tuupuna.

Waahi tapu

He waahi motuhake mo ngaa kaupapa Maaori katoa.

Koorero-o-mua

E maha ngaa koorero puuraakau hoki o te waahi

Rawa tuuturu

Kia tu mataara tonu ki ngaa ngaarara e patu e whakamate ngaa rawa ngaa taonga mai i ngaa ringa awhi o te tangata me oona toki.

Hiahia tuuturu

Ae ahakoa te maha o ngaa haapori i noho huri awhio te waahi me ngaa mahi rerekee ki roto kei reira tonu ka whakaoho teenei reanga ki te whakaora I nga aahuatanga Maaori e ngoikore ana i ngaa waa o mua.

Whakaaronui o te waa

Ae he maha tonu ngaa tapuwae taawhito te awhina nei ngaa wawata Maaori.

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Overview	
<p>For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users. The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.</p>	
Evaluation	
Biophysical	Formative processes of the ranges, including ridgelines and valleys.
	Native bush clad ranges and extent of native vegetation cover.
	High biotic values attributed to significant ecological values identified within the area.
	Modified water reservoirs and their structures including dams included within the landscape identified.
Sensory	Formative processes are less evident but remain legible.
	The extent of native bush cover is significant.
	The vegetation cover contributes to the legibility of the natural tectonic and volcanic processes that formed the range and the continuing natural processes along the slopes and coastal edge.
	A highly memorable and recognisable Range landscape in the wider district and regional landscape as a result of the combination of landform and large extent of dominant native vegetation cover.
Associative	Numerous and significant archaeological sites are found particularly near the bush edges where the slopes meet the plains landscape.
	Hunua Ranges are renowned for their scale and remoteness. Equally providing a boundary between the Waikato and Auckland regions.
	Cultural heritage values associated with the Ranges is very high. (Reference to full details of Te Ao Maaori are within the Iwi Hapuu narrative above).
Threats	
<p>Recognising that Hunua Range forms a larger and recognisable range landscape that extends beyond the District and as such is important to Auckland region as well. The defining Outstanding Natural Landscape comprises the bush clad slopes is a large-scale feature which includes walking tracks, vehicle tracks, roads and built development. Threats to the important attributes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover. ▪ Modification to the visually legible ridgeline profiles from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance. ▪ Loss of vegetation along the margins of the bush resulting in unnatural patterns and sequencing of bush cover. ▪ Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some purpose-built development exists within these areas and can be accommodated through sensitive design. ▪ Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations. ▪ Modification to the archaeological sites. 	

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Outstanding Natural Landscape:

Karioi - Upper bush clad slopes, including some built development

Description:

Karioi is the north-western most volcano of the Alexandra Volcanic Lineament. Some 756m high the extinct volcano consists of basaltic, basaltic andesitic and andesitic lavas, dikes, volcanic breccias and lapilli tuffs. Active during a short period in the late Pliocene times the volcano forms a striking backdrop to the Whaingaroa Harbour and Raglan settlement.

A striking feature of the volcano is the Te Toto gorge with its vertical cliff section that exposes three lava flows (Goles, Briggs & Rosenberg, 1996). The Te Toto gorge is an historic site that also includes remnants of stone rows which would have outlined garden plots, as well as two small paa, storage pits and terraces (DOC, n.d.).

Mt Karioi is the only area on the west coast between Pirongia and Northland that is elevated enough to support a montane flora. The extensive native bush cover falls from summit down the many valleys and ridgelines to meet the coastal edge. The eastern inland flanks of the volcano have a distinct vegetation boundary that is marked by the land ownership and land use activities, between DOC reserve and productive farmland.

The steep and define ridgelines extending down to the coastal cliffs provide striking pattern of ridges and valleys. The bushclad upper slopes create a scenic backdrop to the surrounding rural land and to the settlements of Raglan and Whale Bay. The integration of residential housing in the lower slopes, amongst the native bush, creates a transition between the unmodified to modified coastline.

The mountain including Te Toto Gorge and Papanui Point can be experienced from a variety of walking tracks to the summit and along the coast. The DOC reserve contains dominant native bush along the upper slopes with regenerating native bush along the coastal edge to the west.

The mountain is legible as a whole volcanic landscape from its lower slopes to the summit, including rural farmland at its mid to lower slopes to the east and south. The mountain is a highly visible reference point throughout the district and region, assisting in way finding at wider scale.

As a coastal mountain the transient values vary from changing weather conditions including cloud cover on the summit to dramatic coastal sea conditions, that are formative in the coastal landform. Conversely, Papanui Point is renowned for its coastal headland landform, which is largely void of native bush cover. The coastal landform and its dramatic cliffs form a striking edge to the overall volcanic landscape.

As a plentiful food source and with high vantage points of the wider district Karioi and Papanui Point comprise numerous historical paa sites. Te Toto Gorge includes a complex drainage system of stone rows and mounds remnant of the traditional gardening undertaken by Maaori occupying the area.

Karioi comprises significant historical and cultural heritage value to Maaori and the wider community. Of the two features Karioi is highly recognisable at a district and regional scale through its landform and native bush clad summit. The bush clad upper slopes of Karioi are well photographed and are supported in numerous media promoting the area and District. The lower slopes are less recognised for their aesthetic value as part of the wider mountain.

Papanui Point is less recognised at a district wide scale but remains a key part of the overall mountainous coastal landscape. It is well photographed and recognised for its headland landform.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Tainui (Ngaati Koata, Ngaati Tahinga) and Ngaati Whakamarurangi Marae | Poihaakena and Mootakotako

Mauri

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It was to the summit of Karioi that Rakataura and his sister Hiaroa conveyed the mauri to propitiate the active energies of the natural world, (kia whakahua ake i te tini o Taane, aa ka whakanohoia e raaua te mauri ki too raaua tuuaahu a Tuuaahupapa ki te taumata o Karioi).

Ki too te iwi whakaaro, ka kitea te hukarere ki runga o Karioi aa he tau kai kei te haere mai. He maunga motuhake ki roto i ngaa whakapapa, puuraakau, moteatea, paatere o Tainui Waka.

Waahi tapu

“Tirohia Karioi ka tauria e te kohu, ko ahau hoki ka tauria e te aroha e” (Waiata aroha) Behold Karioi drenched with mist, so too my regard at the sight of her.

Papanui Point - Part of a wider coastal landscape linked through history and whakapapa, surrounded by paa and smaller settlement sites, terraced cultivations and urupaa.

Koorero-o-mua

Ko te pou whenua teenei mo ngaa hapuu katoa o te tai hauaauru, mai i te ngutuawa o Waikato tae atu ki Kaawhia. Kei waho raa i te moananui ko te motu o Kaarewa teetahi o ngaa whaiaipo o Karioi.

Karioi is the principal boundary post for the tribes and sub-tribes of the west coast, it is the gathering place of narratives, of genealogies, of histories.

“Taku taumata ki runga Karioi, hoe ngaa waka ki waho Kaarewa.” (Waiata aroha) From the summit of Karioi the tribal estate can be observed in it's fullness, including ancient paa sites, horticultural sites, harbour mouths, the island of Kaarewa, and the reefs Patuatiniand Rewatu. At certain times of the year an ocean current outside of Kaarewa was said to flow with such power that waka were unable to traverse it. It was known in tribal laments as (“te au here toroa”) the albatross holding current i.e the current that could curtail the flight of the albatross. Men and women of chiefly status were likened to the toroa, and the ocean current a metaphor for the inevitable destiny of the people.

Kaarewa is the largest gannetry in NZ, young gannets were traditionally harvested for food in the month of March. When establishing the Kingitanga in Waikato, Karioi was considered one of the eight posts or mainstays of Potatau. The others were: Titikura, Taranaki, Putauaki, Kaiwi, Ngongotaha, Tararua and Te Aroha.

Papanui Point - Part of a wider coastal landscape linked through history and whakapapa, surrounded by paa and smaller settlement sites, terraced cultivations and urupaa.

Rawa tuuturu

While the lower slopes of Karioi have long been cleared of dense forest cover, hapuu and community groups are working to sustain and rejuvenate the indigenous flora and fauna species that are distinct to this area. Seeds are sourced locally to restore and restock in combination with initiatives to rid the area of cats, rats, stoats, opossums and other predators. The shoreline has always provided a rich seasonal harvest but unusually warm sea temperatures coupled with severe coastal erosion are warning signals that action on a global scale is critical for people and resource sustainability.

I ngaa waa o mua tika, i teenei waa ko te hiahia ka haepapa nga ngaarara e patu kino ngaa taonga ki roto toona ngaahere.

Papanui Point - Remnants of flax, toetoe surviving on steep cliffsides, old fishing and kai ma-taitai grounds, kumara ridge cultivation. Patuatini reef lies just to the west of Papanui, an important breeding and feeding ground for a diverse range of marine species.

Seabirds are dependant on the large schools of baitfish which arrive in the summer months so too are kahawai, dolphin, kingfish and albacore tuna and the clean-up teams of schnapper and gurnard. Shark species, octopus, crayfish, juvenile hapuka add to the diversity which is afforded a degree of protection from human predation by the turbulent tides and wind conditions of the west coast.

Hiahia tuuturu

Too pikitanga ko te aao o te rangi,
Too heketanga ko Karioi maunga,

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Too hoenga waka ko Whaingaroa,
Aaue hei aaue! (Waiata ā ringa).

Papanui Point - Customary permits are used to harvest fish or seafood for hapuu use at important hui when hosting inland hapuu, it also enables hapuu to monitor use and state of the inshore and offshore fishery.

Whakaaronui o te waa

An extinct volcano which erupted some 2.4 million years ago it is the most northerly mountain. It contains the last remnants of podocarp rainforest that escaped the axes and blades of the numerous sawmills that once encircled her wide girth. Totara, matai, rimu, kahikatea, rata, maire, puuriri, kohekohe, maahoe, rewarewa, tawa, rangiora and karaka are some of the indigenous species that still remain along with a diverse range of indigenous ferns and plant communities. Tui, korimako, riroriro, wharauoa (harbinger of the arrival of spring), kereruu, piiwakawaka, long tailed bats and small gecko are just some of the species that occupy the slopes and ravines.

Sea bird species observed between Karioi and Kaarewa include taranui, taraiti (terns), migrating toorea (pied oyster catchers), toorea pango (variable oyster catchers), kawau (species of shag), migrating kuaka (godwits), pakaha (fluttering shearwaters), karoro (blackbacked gull), tarapunga (red billed gull), oi (grey faced petrel), takapu (Australasian gannet), toroa (Albatross), korora (blue penguin), tiitii (sooty shearwater), tiitii wainui (fairy prion) and also katuku ngutupapa (royal spoonbills) in flight to inland estuaries.

In July 2016 Waikato Regional Council approved funding for the creation of a seabird sanctuary at Karioi. A four-year collaborative project that will target pest eradication, seabird protection and increased biodiversity. Te Toto (volcanic scoria flow) gorge on the western seaward side consists of some magnificent 150-metre-high lava flows which have created large natural amphitheatres once used extensively for gardening, seasonal fishing, settlement and storage.

Remnants of karaka groves, stone walls, terraced areas and channelled watercourses with pockets of native spinach are markers of long occupation, cultivation and industry.

Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users. The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato Tainui economic initiatives.

Evaluation

<u>Biophysical</u>	<u>Formative processes of the volcanic landscape and coastline are well documented and in itself are highly legible.</u>
	<u>Te Toto Gorge provides a well-documented feature of Karioi of its volcanic formation.</u>
	<u>Native bush clad slopes and summit of Karioi provide an important habitat for threatened flora and fauna for the District.</u>
	<u>Karioi along with Te Toto Gorge Lava and Pyroclastic section, and Papanui Point volcanic headland are all Geopreservation sites of significant geological importance.</u>
<u>Sensory</u>	<u>Formative processes of the volcanic landscape and coastline are well documented and in itself are highly legible.</u>
	<u>The vegetated bush slopes and summit accentuate the aesthetic coherence of the volcanic feature and its connection to the coastal edge.</u>

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	<u>The vegetation cover contributes to the legibility of the natural processes that formed the volcano and the continuing natural processes along its slopes and coastal edge.</u>
	<u>A highly memorable and recognisable volcanic feature in the wider district landscape as a result of the combination of landform, vegetation cover, coastal location and lack of modification on its upper slopes</u>
Associative	<u>Numerous and significant archaeological sites are found on Karioi, including Te Toto Gorge.</u>
	<u>Karioi is renowned throughout the District for its native flora and fauna, walking tracks and vehicle access tracks. The scale of the mountain and its coastal edge is covered in many media forms promoting the local and district wide identity.</u>
	<u>Cultural heritage values associated with both Karioi and Papanui Point are very high.</u>
Threats	
<p>Recognising that Karioi forms a larger and recognisable volcanic landscape within the District and as such the broader landscape is defined as the combination of the Significant Amenity Landscape and the Outstanding Natural Landscape. As a whole the legibility of the geomorphological processes that have formed the volcano are inherently important to this landscape. <u>The defining Outstanding Natural Landscape comprises the bush clad slopes is a large scale feature which includes walking tracks, vehicle tracks, roads and built development. Threats to the important attributes include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to the visually legible mountain skyline profile from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance.</u> ▪ <u>Built development within the bush clad slopes in the top half of the maunga resulting in a loss of remoteness and naturalness of Karioi.</u> ▪ <u>Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some built development exists within these areas and can be accommodated through sensitive design.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to the archaeological sites.</u> 	

Outstanding Natural Landscape: Pirongia - Pirongia Forest Park

Description:

The volcanic cone comprises a number of peaks and forms a southern most volcanic feature of the Waikato District Landscape. Only a portion of the volcano is included within the District. Forming large low angle cones Pirongia constitutes the greatest volume of the Alexandra Volcanic, rising to 959m. The volcano has formed from a succession of basaltic flows, volcanic breccias and minor tuffs. Many of the lava flows average about 10-20m in thickness. No trace of a crater feature remains on the volcano.

Supporting 13,500ha of native bush the Pirongia Forest Park includes threatened species including wood rose (Dactylanthus taylorii). Sequencing to mountainous flora include mountain flax, coprosmas and ferns near the summit with taller podocarp species including rimu, totara, tawa and tree ferns found near the mid to lower slopes. Native fauna includes grey warblers, fantails, tomtits, pipits, harriers, kingfishers, New Zealand falcons, kereruu, tui and bellbirds. Several native fish species are also found in the mountain streams.

The volcanic cone visually dominates much of the central portion of the Waikato Region and is collectively seen alongside Karioi. A number of tramping tracks extend through the forest park ranging from 1 hour to 10 hour walks. The experience of Mount Pirongia includes the transition from lowland to mountain vegetation within a large area of native bush. As a coastal mountain the transient values vary from changing weather conditions including cloud cover on the summit to dramatic coastal sea conditions, that are formative in the coastal landform. Seasonally the mountain is also known to have held snow cover in the winter months.

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Largely unmodified by modern productive land use practices the key cultural sites of significance remain on the foothills of the slopes. The mountain remains of significant importance to tangata whenua for its ancestral and cultural values.

The mountain is recognised for its form and location as a key feature of the broader Waikato region's landscape views as part of the collection of volcanoes along the west coast. Pirongia is highly recognised and remains iconic to the District and Region.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Apakura and Ngaati Mahuta

Marae | Puurekireki, Te Koopua, Hiiona and Kahotea

Mauri

He waahi tapu me oona koorero, puuraakau, waiata i tuitui ai ki roto i ngaa tatai whakapapa o Tainui Waka

Waahi tapu

Pirongia is a waahi tapu of special, cultural, historic and or spiritual importance to Maaori.

Koorero-o-mua

Waikato-Tainui people have a strong connection to Mount Pirongia. It was first named "Pirongia te aroaro o Kahu" the scented pathway of Kahu by a Tohunga of the Tainui canoe to honour his wife. To preserve the heritage of Mount Pirongia Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society Inc was formed in 2002 as a result of deep-seated community interest in its ecological restoration.

Rawa tuuturu

Wood rose or Dactylanthus taylorii, a rare and endangered parasitic flowering plant, can be found on the ridges of Mount Pirongia. Variety of podocarps are found at lower altitudes: rimu, totara, tawa and tree ferns. At higher altitudes the forest changes. Hardy plants like horopito and kamahi grow on exposed ridges, and near the summit there are mountain flax, coprosmas and ferns. Common birds are: fantails, kingfishers, kereruu, tui, New Zealand falcons. Botanically, Pirongia is also interesting area as it marks the transition between the warmth-loving kauri forest of the north and the beech and podocarp-beech forest in the south. The park's latitude is the naturally occurring southern limit for species such as kauri and mangeao.

Kia mataara toonu taatou tki e kaitiaki i ngaa rawa me ngaa taonga ki roto, me patu i ngaa ngaarara i whakamate i ngaa rawa me ngaa taonga Maaori.

Hiahia tuuturu

Pirongia is a venue or repository for Maaori cultural practices and spiritual values.

Whakaaronui o te waa

Pirongia has special amenity, architectural or educational significance to Maaori.

Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use.

Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users.

The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

Evaluation

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<u>Biophysical</u>	<u>Formative processes of the volcanic landscape and coastline are well documented and in itself are highly legible.</u>
	<u>Native bush clad slopes and summit of Pirongia provide an important habitat for threatened flora and fauna for the District.</u>
	<u>The volcano has formed from a succession of basaltic flows, volcanic breccias and minor tuffs. Many of the lava flows average about 10-20m in thickness. No trace of a crater feature remains on the volcano.</u>
	<u>Pirongia is well researched and documented to be a Geopreservation site of significant geological importance.</u>
	<u>Lower slopes of modified farmland remain geologically important however the biotic values are degraded.</u>
<u>Sensory</u>	<u>Formative processes of the volcanic landscape are well documented and in itself are highly legible.</u>
	<u>The vegetated bush slopes and summit accentuate the aesthetic coherence of the volcanic feature.</u>
	<u>The vegetation cover contributes to the legibility of the natural processes that formed the volcano and the continuing natural processes along its slopes.</u>
	<u>A highly memorable and recognisable volcanic feature in the wider district landscape as a result of the combination of landform, vegetation cover and the broad multi cone skyline.</u>
<u>Associative</u>	<u>Some significant archaeological sites are found on the lower slopes of Pirongia, within the Waikato District area.</u>
	<u>Pirongia is renowned throughout the District for its native flora and fauna, walking tracks and vehicle access tracks. The scale of the mountain is covered in many media forms promoting the local and district wide identity.</u>
	<u>Cultural heritage values are very high.</u>
<u>Threats</u>	
<p><u>Recognising that Pirongia forms a larger and recognisable volcanic landscape within the Region and outside the Waikato District. As a whole the legibility of the geomorphological processes that have formed the volcano are inherently important to this landscape. The defining Outstanding Natural Landscape comprises the bush clad slopes is a large-scale feature which includes walking tracks, vehicle tracks, roads and built development. Threats to the important attributes include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to the visually legible mountain skyline profile from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance.</u> ▪ <u>Built development within the bush clad slopes resulting in a loss of naturalness.</u> ▪ <u>Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some built development exists within these areas and can be accommodated through sensitive design.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to the archaeological sites.</u> 	

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Outstanding Natural Landscape: Waikato River and Wetlands, including Okariha Sand Spit and margins

Description:

At 354km long the Waikato River is the longest river in Aotearoa, New Zealand. The river and its alluvial and fluvial processes have been formative in the geomorphology of the Waikato District and Waikato Region. Once exiting into the Firth of Thames the Waikato River takes a more confined path through the central Waikato Region, flowing into the Tasman Sea near Port Waikato. Dammed in eight places upstream of the Waikato District the River's natural flows and levels are influenced by the operation of these dams.

The majority of the River's margins are heavily modified from productive land use management, stop banks and weed infestation. Along the length of the River within the Waikato District, much of the river margin is dominated by exotic tree and weed species including Willow and Alder species. Downstream toward the river mouth, pockets of native bush reside alongside the river. As the River widens the wetlands and river delta expand to create small islands within the river corridor. These areas remain largely unmodified as landforms with less evidence of the upstream modifications.

A number of geopreservation sites are located along the river margins and within the river delta near the river mouth. Some bluffs and other geopreservation features are sited near to Tuakau featuring the Jurassic section. Okariha Sand Spit has a high level of vividness for the Port Waikato settlement as the main sand spit to the Waikato River.

The vegetated margins of the modified sections of the Waikato River provide a modified vegetated scenic quality with pockets of native flora. The aesthetic coherence of the river margin is limited to mostly a narrow margin with a heavily modified back edge as a result of urban and rural development. Road networks including State Highway 1 which extends alongside the river at Horotiu, Rangiriri and Meremere. This experience includes open views. The river is highly vivid and memorable as a feature of the Waikato District particularly with the visual links from public viewpoints. Moderate levels of aesthetic coherence exist for much of the modified margins of the river with very high levels found in the braided delta and wetlands near the river mouth.

The braided delta is expressive of its formative processes and the natural path of the river with the wetlands providing an indication of what once occurred upstream. This area of the river is highly legible and comprises tidal and seasonal change of flora and fauna that contributes to its transient values. With numerous water takes for settlements and cities, including Hamilton and Auckland, the Waikato River is well known for being a source of life to the District. Iconic to the Waikato Region, the River forms a key connector between settlements throughout the Waikato District. The Okariha Sand Spit, as part of the Waikato River system, is highly recognisable and retains moderate to high shared and recognised values to the local and wider district community.

Used historically as a route for transporting between settlements, numerous paa and marae are established along the banks of the River, including Tuurangawaewae, in Ngaaruawaahia. The river is well used within the Waikato District for recreational activities including rowing, waka tauaa, waka ama, fishing and white baiting along with many other activities. Along the banks of the River within settlements walkways and cycleways extend along its margin providing connections between towns. The Waikato River remains of high importance to the community and iwi with the ongoing management of the River governed by the Waikato River Authority.

For Maaori the river margins have strong spiritual, cultural and social associations with particular landscape elements, features or areas such as paa, kaainga, tupuna awa, mahinga kai and waahi tapu, or other sites of historic events or heritage. Associative activities are patterns of social activity that occur in particular parts of a landscape, for example popular walking routes or fishing spots.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

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Hapuu associations | Ngaati Tiipa, Ngaati Amaru Ngaati Taahinga, Ngaati Te Ata Ngaai Tai, Ngaati Koheriki and Ngaati Tamaoho.

Marae | Ooraeroa, Tauranganui, Tikirahi, Te Kotahitanga, Pakau, Te Awamaarahi, Whaatapaka and Ngaataierua.

Ngaati Te Ata hold manawhenua

- traditional relationship and history
- continues to be a cultural resource for our people
- bound to our relationship and our culture and traditions with our ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

Mauri

“The Waikato River is our tupuna and looks over us throughout our lives. The river feeds us, nurtures us and takes care of us, healing our hurts and protecting us from harm. The river is our lifeline from which we take our name, our identity and our mana.”

Wetlands are an integral component within the whakapapa of Waikato-Tainui rivers and lakes. They provide important spawning grounds and habitat for fish and other taonga species. They also provide important ecosystem services such as reducing peak flood flows, increasing low flows, and trapping and removing sediments and nutrients. Mana whenua, traditional relationship and history, continues to be a cultural resource for our people, bound to our relationship and our culture and traditions with our ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

Waikato taniwha rau he piko he taniwha he piko he taniwha he taniwha. Orite ki ngaa whakaaro o te wahanga o Waikato Awa mo eenei waahi.

Waahi tapu

For Waikato-Tainui, the lower Waikato wetlands are areas of huge significance. Due to the concealing nature of wetlands, people would store and preserve taonga within them, thus ensuring the safety of those taonga. Key wetlands continue to conceal the kooiwi of Waikato- Tainui tuupuna who lost their lives during the battles of Rangiriri and Meremere in 1863.

This pepeha (tribal saying) of the Waikato people, denotes the significance and the spiritual connection that tangata whenua have with the river and the land. The Waikato River was the primary source of food, transport, ritual and tradition for Maaori - it was their life blood.

Koorero-o-mua

The Waikato River provides physical and sustenance for the Waikato-Tainui people. The spirits of ancestors mingle with its waters, which is used in rituals.

Resource users, activity operators, landowners, local authorities, and Crown agencies (as appropriate) to improve and facilitate access for Waikato-Tainui members to selected wetlands within the tribal area in order to practice whakatupua (growing time), raahui on wetlands during the fish spawning season, and/or other Waikato-Tainui hauanga kai and cultural practices.

Rawa tuuturu

Flood plains and wetlands provide important habitat and spawning for indigenous fish but many of the region's wetlands are no longer in a suitable state to perform this function. This is coupled by a reduction in the connectivity between freshwater systems and habitat due to infrastructure such as culverts, weirs and/or dams.

The Waikato River is a source of food, including eels, mullet, smelt and whitebait, and plants like watercress. It was an important waka route, especially from the mid-1800s when Maaori began taking their farm produce to distant markets.

Tuhuri i ngaa mahi kino ngaa waa o mua ka hoki ora ki ngaa taonga rawa Maaori mai ngaa mahi kaitiakitanga. Ko ngaa mahi kino o te tangata i mate mate haere o taatou awa e hia nei taatou ka kaha nei ki ngaa mahi tika te hoki whakaora i too taatou awa tupuna.

Hiahia tuuturu

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As a result of the reduction in wetland area and the impacts on remnants, the ability for Waikato-Tainui to exercise kaitiaki responsibilities, maintain access to, and utilise the natural resources of wetlands has been compromised. Many wetlands in the region are surrounded by privately owned land with no legal access for Waikato-Tainui or the public.

In 2008 Waikato-Tainui tribes signed an agreement with government to protect the Waikato River for future generations, and this was made law under the Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010. Waikato-Tainui has kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the river and works in partnership with government and local-government agencies such as the Waikato Regional Council to manage it.

Whakaaronui o te waa

Many Waikato tribes lived at paa on the banks of the Waikato River, and the last part of the pepeha denotes this activity, the importance of their chiefs and the taniwha that lived in the river. Ngaaruawaahia was also the home of Pootatau Te Wherowhero, the first Maaori King who led the Kiingitanga movement from 1858-1860. It is the home of the Maaori dynasty and the current Maaori King, Tuuheitia Paki.

Overview

The mauri of Waikato-Tainui wetlands is linked to the overall ecological health and well-being of their whakapapa (i.e., to the native fauna and flora found in those systems). These are the resources that Waikato-Tainui rely on for a number of cultural activities and which are collectively identified as 'hauanga kai'. Negative impacts on the whakapapa of the wetlands will, therefore, have corresponding negative effects on wetland mauri and the ability of Waikato-Tainui to utilise hauanga kai.

Evaluation

<u>Biophysical</u>	<u>Downstream the river's natural geomorphology processes remain dominant with the wetlands and river delta.</u>
	<u>Native bush clad margins and wetlands have high ecological value</u>
	<u>Braided river delta supporting wetlands and intertidal habitat remain in a largely unmodified state, excluding the white baiting huts and maimai.</u>
	<u>Okariha Sand Spit – Some modification but retains natural patterns and remains a highly dynamic feature of the Waikato River mouth and west coast. Adjacent to the settlement of Port Waikato the natural patterns and processes are highly expressive. The aesthetic coherence is of moderate to high value. The area is of moderate to high levels of vividness</u>
	<u>High biotic values attributed to significant ecological values identified within the braided delta portion of the river.</u>
<u>Sensory</u>	<u>The river delta provides a highly memorable feature that is highly expressive of its formative processes</u>
	<u>Transient values are high along the braided river delta with tidal and seasonal change in flora and fauna apparent.</u>
	<u>Okariha Sand Spit - Shared and recognised values are moderate to high with historic heritage values associated with the adjoining settlement.</u>
<u>Associative</u>	<u>Well recognised for its geological history and importance to the Waikato Plains, the river is iconic in many forms of media, logos and promotional material. Of all the features within the Waikato District the river is the most iconic.</u>
	<u>Recognised of utmost importance to Waikato-Tainui and many hapu which reside along the banks of the river.</u>
	<u>Iconic to the Region and the District the river features prominently in media, logos and promotional material.</u>

Threats

Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:

- Earthworks, quarrying and excavation along the margins of the river corridor disrupting natural vegetation patterns.
- Modification of natural river patterns within the braided delta resulting in biophysical changes to the natural elements, patterns and processes.
- Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some purpose-built development exists within these areas and can be accommodated through sensitive design.

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- Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations.
- Loss or modification to cultural and historic heritage features along the river margins.
- Loss of public visual relationship with the river from State Highway 1.
- Introduction of dominant structures or activities within the Waikato River Margins and Wetlands area.

Outstanding Natural Features

Outstanding Natural Feature: Pouraureroa Stream Bush

Description:

Separated from the Hunua Ranges bush cover, Pouraureroa Stream Bush forms a remnant stand of native bush surrounded by agricultural land use. Some areas have been cleared for pasture with cattle being grazed. And there is evidence of invasion of exotic tree and other weed species around the perimeter of the bush.

The native bush cover and habitat includes a range of moderate wildlife values. The contiguous native bush cover provides a high level of aesthetic coherence throughout the landscape. The remote location contributes to a sense of remoteness with access only gained via limited vehicle and walking tracks. Forming the northern boundary of the Waikato District the ranges comprises a high level of legibility and vividness. This results from the dramatic transition from low rolling and plains farmland to the steep and deeply incised bush clad hills.

As a plentiful food source and with high vantage points the Hunua Range comprises numerous historical cultural sites, particularly at the southern interface with the lowlands. Renowned as the largest native forest in the Auckland Region the Hunua Ranges straddle Auckland Region and Waikato District. Common associative values attributed to the landscape are associated with walking and tramping experiences, cultural heritage values attributed by tangata whenua and the seasonal changes that occur throughout the year.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Tiipa, Ngaati Amaru, Ngaati Te Ata, Ngaati Koheriki, Ngaati Tamaoho and Ngaai Tai.

Marae | Ngaataierua and Mangatangi.

Ngaati Te Ata hold manawhenua

- traditional relationship and history
- continues to be a cultural resource for our people
- bound to our relationship and our culture and traditions with our ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

Mauri

Manawhenua, traditional relationship and history, continues to be a cultural resource for our people, bound to our relationship and our culture and traditions with our ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

Waahi tapu

Hei te tuaapapa o te rohe tonga o ngaa pae maunga o Hunua.

Koorero-o-mua

Kia mataara ki ngaa mahi kino ki te whenua me ngaa wai e rere nei me hoki ora ngaa rawa me ngaa taonga Maaori.

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Rawa tuuturu

The place provides important customary resources for Maaori.

Hiahia tuuturu

E roa te waa e ngaro weera tikanga ki te waahi engari ka whakaora tonu teenei reanga ngaa tikanga o te waahi.

Whakaaronui o te waa

The place has special amenity, architectural or educational significance to Maaori.

Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users. The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

Evaluation

<u>Biophysical</u>	<u>Formative processes of the ranges, including ridgelines and valleys.</u>
	<u>Native bush clad ranges and extent of native vegetation cover.</u>
	<u>High biotic values attributed to significant ecological values identified within the area.</u>
	<u>Modified areas within to accommodate grazing stock along ridgelines in western portion of the site.</u>
<u>Sensory</u>	<u>Formative processes are less evident but remain legible.</u>
	<u>The extent of native bush cover is significant.</u>
	<u>The vegetation cover contributes to the legibility of the natural tectonic and volcanic processes that formed the range and the continuing natural processes along the slopes and coastal edge.</u>
	<u>A moderately memorable and recognisable as connected to the Hunua Range landscape in the wider district and regional landscape.</u>
<u>Associative</u>	<u>Few documented archaeological sites are found within this area.</u>
	<u>Connected to the Hunua Ranges which are renowned for their scale and remoteness. Equally providing a boundary between the Waikato and Auckland regions.</u>
	<u>Cultural heritage values associated with the Ranges are very high.</u>

Threats

Recognising that this pocket of bush forms part of the broader Hunua Range landscape which is a recognisable range landscape that extends beyond the District and as such is important to Auckland region. The defining Outstanding Natural Feature comprises the bush clad slopes and excludes open grazed areas for agricultural and productive land use purposes. Threats to the important attributes include:

- Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover.
- Modification to the visually legible ridgeline profiles from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance.
- Modification of the ridgeline and skyline of the bush covered hills through built form, earthworks and structures.
- Loss of vegetation along the margins of the bush resulting in unnatural patterns and sequencing of bush cover.
- Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some purpose-built development exists within these areas and can be accommodated through sensitive design.
- Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations.

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**Outstanding Natural Feature:
Horea - Rangitoto Point**

Description:

The dominant dune feature extends from the open coast into the Whaingaroa Harbour. A significant geological feature the dunes are rich in iron sand and demonstrate transitioning dune profiles. Vegetation is a mix of native and weed species with some degradation of the natural biotic patterns of the feature. NZ Steel leases much of the Point and has done since 1981 and contains a recently renewed 20 year lease commenced in 2012.

The remoteness and dynamic environment of the west coast generates a sense of wildness along this coastal feature. The aesthetic coherence is of moderate to high level as a result of the scale of the feature extending from the open coast to the harbour edge. The margins are of moderate value as a result of the integration of agricultural land use immediately adjacent detracting from the possible native vegetation sequencing. The feature is highly expressive of the geomorphological processes that occur at this harbour mouth.

This coastal edge is proliferated with sites of cultural significance including numerous waahi tapu sites all along the coast, including a concentration on this feature. Horea is of particular significance to Tainui Awhiro.

The headland dunes are experienced through access from the coastal edge and from the settlement of Raglan, across the harbour. Shared and recognised values of this dune system are high, with its prominence as a natural backdrop to the settlement of Raglan.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Tainui
Marae | Poihaakena and Te Akau

Mauri

The mauri (for example life force) and mana (for example prestige) of the place or resource holds special significance to Maaori.

Waahi tapu

The place or resource is a waahi tapu of special, cultural, historic and or spiritual importance to Maaori.

Koorero-o-mua

The place has special historical and cultural significance to Maaori

Rawa tuuturu

The place provides important customary resources for Maaori.

Hiahia tuuturu

The place or resource is a venue or repository for Maaori cultural practices and spiritual values.

Whakaaronui o te waa

The place has special amenity, architectural or educational significance to Maaori.

These terms are also relevant in considering the attributes of the Outstanding Natural Feature (Cultural):

- Te Ao Maaori, te kaawairunga me te kaawai raro: The Maaori world view where there are realms of the gods and realms of the people.
- Taha wairua: the spiritual side.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Rangatiratanga: the mana of rangatira and their communities to make decisions regarding their resources.</u> <u>Tohu: flora and fauna that provided indicators of river health and signs of safety.</u> <u>Ngaa taniwha me ngaa tipua: metaphysical beings that are manifested in natural phenomenon - the river spirits.</u> <u>Wai: the use of water for rituals and ceremonies.</u> <u>Ngaa koorero me ngaamahi: knowledge and experiences.</u> <u>Waiata me ngaa karakia: the modes that transmit knowledge and tikanga for the river.</u> 	
<p>Overview</p> <p>For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users.</p> <p>The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.</p>	
<p>Evaluation</p>	
Biophysical	<p>Extending some way inland the sand dune incursions are highly dynamic, representative of the natural processes and formative processes.</p> <p>Natural vegetation patterns extending along the harbour edge sequencing from the open coast of moderate value.</p>
Sensory	<p>High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the dunes remaining dynamic and changing on a daily basis. The aesthetic coherence is high diminishing at its edged as a result of adjoining agricultural land use.</p>
Associative	<p>Moderate to high levels of shared and recognised values.</p> <p>High to very high levels of cultural heritage values associated with prolific pre-European occupation along this coastal edge.</p> <p>Significant recorded cultural values associated with the feature for tangata whenua.</p>
<p>Threats</p>	
<p>Threats to the character and qualities of the dune feature include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Earthworks, quarrying and excavation disrupting natural vegetation patterns and geological formations.</u> <u>Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations.</u> <u>Loss or modification to cultural and historic heritage features.</u> <u>Modification to natural processes that continue within the dune feature and streams.</u> <u>Loss of native vegetation on all features, including sequencing of coastal native species.</u> 	

Outstanding Natural Feature: **Whangamarino Wetland**

Description:

Whangamarino wetland is a 7000ha mosaic of swamps, fens and peat bogs that collectively are listed as a Ramsar site (1989). As the second largest log and swamp complex in the North Island the wetland is a

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substantial part of an effective flood control scheme on the lower Waikato River. Whangamarino Wetland encompasses Lake Waikare with land use modification extending between these features. Geologically, these features are connected to the central series of peat lakes and wetlands.

The biotic values of the wetland are significant in value and include a number of threatened plants and includes mosses and lichens. The wetland includes the largest population of Australasian bittern in the world and remains a stronghold of the black mudfish (DOC, 2016b).

The scale of the wetland feature provides a sense of legibility of the pre-human landscape of the Waikato peat lands. The feature provides a very high level of aesthetic coherence with some modification to the margins of the wetland, where it transitions to rural productive land use.

The feature is high vivid and memorable and forms a key feature in the District's identity. The legibility of the feature is evident of the formative processes as part of the Waikato River alluvial processes. The naturalness is of a very high level along with high levels of scenic quality. The seasonal change within the wetland, in particular flora and fauna provides interest between the winter and summer months.

Recreational trails through the wetlands and the proximity to roading networks provides an increased opportunity for the shared and recognised values of the wetland to be established. As a dominant food source for Māori the wetland is of high cultural heritage value to tangata whenua. Numerous cultural sites reside around the margins of the wetland and Lake Waikare.

Te Ao Māori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Koheriki, Ngaati Tamaoho, Ngai Tai, Ngaati Mahuta, Ngaati Whaawhaakia, Ngaati Kuiaarangi and Ngaati Tai.

Marae | Mangatangi, Waikare, Oookarea, Taniwha – Tangoao, Horahora, Maurea and Matahuru

Mauri

Wetlands are an integral component within the whakapapa of Waikato-Tainui rivers and lakes. They provide important spawning grounds and habitat for fish and other taonga species. They also provide important ecosystem services such as reducing peak flood flows, increasing low flows, and trapping and removing sediments and nutrients.

Waahi tapu

For Waikato-Tainui, the lower Waikato wetlands are areas of huge significance. Due to the concealing nature of wetlands, people would store and preserve taonga within them, thus ensuring the safety of those taonga. Key wetlands continue to conceal the koiwi of Waikato-Tainui tuupuna who lost their lives during the battles of Rangiriri and Meremere in 1863.

Ae he waahi tino whakahirahira o ngaa tuupuna ngaa kai me ngaa rauemi huri awhio te repo.

Koorero-o-mua

Resource users, activity operators, landowners, local authorities, and Crown agencies (as appropriate) to improve and facilitate access for Waikato-Tainui members to selected wetlands within the tribal area in 173 order to practice whakatupua (growing time), raahui on wetlands during the fish spawning season, and/or other Waikato-Tainui hauanga kai and cultural practices.

Rawa tuuturu

Flood plains and wetlands provide important habitat and spawning for indigenous fish but many of the region's wetlands are no longer in a suitable state to perform this function. This is coupled by a reduction in the connectivity between freshwater systems and habitat due to infrastructure such as culverts, weirs and/or dams.

The Whangamarino is renowned for its ability to ensure the kidneys of the Waikato River continue to operate in a healthy way pre-colonial/settlement times. It was abundant in medicinal plants and its bird population at the time were a regular part of tangata whenua diet. Birds such as the matuku were

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considered a delicacy even as late as the 1940-1980 and kaumaatua in the area would eat those birds when they were kids.

The Whangamarino had various little places within its natural eco-system/environment which served various purposes such as:

- a) parts of the wetland were/are thermal - the water in this part of the wetland was said to be used for aches n pains and for looking after men and women who went to war.
- b) parts of the wetland were used for cleansing washing food
- c) parts of the wetland harboured long finned eel who were almost treated like Gods because of their importance of spawning and recognised as a regular food source. Often food scraps would be feed to these species.
- d) Ancestors have known to have died in the wetland where they were being cared for with the water.

Much of the reasons of today as to what humans need to survive or to attend to ailments, the Whangamarino was the one stop facility that could provide all those things.

Tiaki ngaa whenua me ngaa wai ka ora tonu ngaa rawa me ngaa taonga Maaori ki reira.

Hiahia tuuturu

As a result of the reduction in wetland area and the impacts on remnants, the ability for Waikato-Tainui to exercise kaitiaki responsibilities, maintain access to, and utilise the natural resources of wetlands has been compromised. Many wetlands in the region are surrounded by privately owned land with no legal access for Waikato-Tainui or the public.

Whakaaronui o te waa

The mauri of Waikato-Tainui wetlands is linked to the overall ecological health and well-being of their whakapapa (i.e., to the native fauna and flora found in those systems). These are the resources that Waikato-Tainui rely on for a number of cultural activities and which are collectively identified as 'hauanga kai'. Negative impacts on the whakapapa of the wetlands will, therefore, have corresponding negative effects on wetland mauri and the ability of Waikato-Tainui to utilise hauanga kai.

Evaluation

<u>Biophysical</u>	<u>Very high natural science factors associated with the scale and quality of the biotic and abiotic processes occurring within the wetland.</u>
	<u>Natural vegetation vary throughout the wetland surrounding higher landforms that form vegetation sequencing from riparian to wetland species.</u>
<u>Sensory</u>	<u>High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the wetland remaining dynamic in its biotic and abiotic processes. The aesthetic coherence is very high diminishing at its edged as a result of adjoining agricultural land use.</u>
<u>Associative</u>	<u>High to very high levels of shared and recognised values.</u>
	<u>High to very high levels of cultural heritage values associated prolific food source the wetlands provided to Maaori.</u>
	<u>Significant recorded cultural values associated with the feature for tangata whenua.</u>

Threats

Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:

- Earthworks, drainage and excavation disrupting natural vegetation patterns and wetland patterns.
- Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations including watercourse.
- Loss or modification to cultural and historic heritage features.
- Modification to natural processes that continue within the wetland.
- Loss of native vegetation within the feature.

Outstanding Natural Feature: Lake Waikare and Lake Whangape

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Description:

Lake Waikare is the largest lake in the lower Waikato Catchment with 3,442 ha of open water and an average depth of 1.5m. Lake Whangape is the second largest lake in the lower Waikato catchment and is 1,450 ha in size and has an average depth of 1.5m. both lakes are hypertrophic meaning they are very nutrient rich. This has occurred as a result of the die off of oxygen weed and other aquatic plants. Lake Waikare discharges into the Whangamarino Wetland from the artificial Pungarehu Canal.

The small island within Lake Waikare (Punikanae Island) hosts a silica sinter-depositing spring, which is the only known spring of its kind outside of the Taupo Volcanic Zone.

The scale of these lakes and wetland features provides a sense of legibility of the pre human landscape of the Waikato peat lakes. The feature provides a very high level of aesthetic coherence with some modification to the margins of the wetland, where it transitions to rural productive land use.

The feature is moderate to high vividness and is memorable. The legibility of the feature is evident of the formative processes as part of the Waikato River alluvial processes.

The naturalness is of a high level along with high levels of scenic quality. The seasonal change within the wetland, in particular flora and fauna provides interest between the winter and summer months.

Recreational trails through the wetlands and the proximity to roading networks provides an increased opportunity for the shared and recognised values to be maintained. As a dominant food source for Maaori the wetland is of high cultural heritage value to tangata whenua. Recreation use alongside Lake Waikare provides recognition of the feature at a localised level.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Naho, Ngaati Hine, Ngaati Taratikitiki, Ngaati Pou, Ngaati Mahuta, Ngaati Tai, Ngaati Whaawhaakia, Ngaati Kuiaarangi and Tainui.

Marae | Mangatangi, Waikare, Ookarea, Taniwha – Tangoao, Matahuru, Te Poho o Tanikena, Weraroa, Horahora & Maurea.

Mauri

He waahi motuhake mo ngaa hapuu e noho huri aawhio ngaa roto.

Waahi tapu

Ae orite ki ngaa waahi katoa mena kii mai he waahi tapu raatou katoa e tapiri nei ki ngaa waahi tapu a raatou kaitiaki.

Koorero-o-mua

The place has special historical and cultural significance to Maaori

Rawa tuuturu

Waikato-Tainui aspires to have waters that are drinkable, swimmable, and fishable with the water quality at least at the level it was when Kiingi Taawhiao composed his maimai aroha. The ability to have drinkable and fishable water is limited by a number of factors such as the concentrations of E. coli, eutrophication, suspended sediments, arsenic and mercury.

I ngaa waa o mua ae, engari teenei waa e mate mate haere ngaa roto kia tika ngaa mahi huri awhio ngaa roto te hoki whakaora raaua tahi me ngaa rawa taonga Maaori hoki.

Hiahia tuuturu

The place or resource is a venue or repository for Maaori cultural practices and spiritual values.

Whakaaronui o te waa

Water is a fundamental component for all dimensions of life. Water not only sustains life, but also serves an economic, social, cultural, spiritual, and political purpose. Regardless of the significance of water, the increase in water contamination by cities, industries, and agriculture/horticulture has led to the

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deterioration of the mauri of water. The degradation of the whenua and waterways affects the use (physical and metaphysical) of water resources, hauanga kai, and water's life supporting capacity. It is recognised that there are two major issues related to water; water quality and water quantity (allocation). These have significant impacts on the relationship between Waikato-Tainui and water.

Ae ahakoa ngaa mahi o teenei reanga i whakarerekee ngaa ahuatanga tiinana hoki o ngaa roto.

Evaluation

<u>Biophysical</u>	<u>Very high natural science factors associated with the scale and quality of the biotic and abiotic processes occurring within the wetland.</u>
	<u>Natural vegetation vary throughout the wetland surrounding higher landforms that form vegetation sequencing from riparian to wetland species.</u>
	<u>As a collection the two lakes contain very high natural science factors.</u>
<u>Sensory</u>	<u>High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the wetland remaining dynamic in its biotic and abiotic processes. The aesthetic coherence is very high diminishing at its edged as a result of adjoining agricultural land use.</u>
<u>Associative</u>	<u>High to very high levels of shared and recognised values.</u>
	<u>High to very high levels of cultural heritage values associated prolific food source the wetlands provided to Maaori.</u>
	<u>Significant recorded cultural values associated with the feature for tangata whenua.</u>

Threats

Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:

- Earthworks, drainage and excavation disrupting natural vegetation patterns and wetland patterns.
- Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations including watercourse.
- Loss or modification to cultural and historic heritage features.
- Modification to natural processes that continue within the wetland and lake margins.
- Loss of native vegetation within the feature.

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**Outstanding Natural Feature:
Te Hoe - Native bush and summit**

Description:

Located along the western boundary of the Waikato District, Te Hoe forms the eastern hill range, centrally located within the Waikato plains regional landscape. Te Hoe is locally distinctive reaching a summit of 521m for Ngaraparepa and is covered in native bush cover, with the broader hills cleared for agricultural land use.

Rataroa is sited further north, sitting south of the Hunua Ranges. Predominantly cleared for productive land use the range includes numerous ridgelines and gullies, some of which are covered in native bush. Pockets of productive forestry are scattered amongst the feature. Locally recognisable, Te Hoe is a memorable and vivid feature within the Waikato District with the bush clad hills and range forming a striking backdrop to the plains landscape to the broader hills form part of the wider feature's landform and skyline which backdrops the plains landscape. Productive land use dominates these broader slopes.

Both Rataroa and Te Hoe form a backdrop to the Waikato District plains landscape, forming a skyline line feature. The landscape is moderately expressive of its formative processes. Rataroa and the broader Te Hoe hills form a significant landscape feature for the district with moderate levels of vividness and aesthetic coherence. Both Rataroa and Te Hoe have strong cultural heritage values and include numerous cultural sites along their foothills. The shared and recognised values associated with Te Hoe are associated largely with the scale and bush covered slopes. Recognition and association with the broader hill range remains more localised but definitive as a bordering feature of the District.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Naho, Ngaati Hine, Ngaati Wairere, Ngaati Makirangi, Ngaati Mahuta, Ngaati Whaawhaakia, Ngaati Kuiaarangi and Ngaati Tai

Marae | Matahuru, Te Hoe o Tainui, Taniwha – Tangoao.

Waahi tapu

The place or resource is a waahi tapu of special, cultural, historic and or spiritual importance to Maaori.
Koorero-o-mua

Te Hoe-o-Tainui "The Paddle of the Tainui" legend said the paddle of the Tainui canoe once rested here.

Rawa tuuturu

The place provides important customary resources for Maaori.

Whakaaronui o te waa

The place has special amenity, architectural or educational significance to Maaori.

Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users.

The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

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Evaluation	
Biophysical	<u>Very high natural science factors associated with the scale and quality of the biotic and abiotic processes occurring within the bush covered slopes of Te Hoe.</u>
Sensory	<u>High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the hill range of Te Hoe. The aesthetic coherence is high for Te Hoe bush covered slopes.</u>
Associative	<u>Te Hoe Bush - High levels of shared and recognised values.</u>
	<u>High levels of shared and recognised values.</u>
	<u>High levels of cultural heritage values associated with Te Hoe and the broader range as a food source and ancestral associations.</u>
Threats	
<p><u>Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to the visually legible ranges skyline profile from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance.</u> ▪ <u>Built development within the bush clad slopes resulting in a loss of naturalness.</u> ▪ <u>Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some built development exists within these areas and can be accommodated through sensitive design.</u> 	

Outstanding Natural Feature: Taupiri Range - Bush covered slopes

Description:

The Taupiri Range forms part of a continuous geological formation with the Hakarimata Range as a Mesozoic rock formation of the Newcastle Group. Divided by the Waikato River the modification to the landform is apparent from the existing State Highway and cultural and productive land use practices on the wider range, including quarrying to the east. The native vegetation cover is interspersed with productive land use including forestry and stock grazing.

A recent change to the landform has resulted from the new State Highway which cuts through the ranges at its southern end. Landform patterns are significantly changed in its immediate area alongside the existing quarries that are sited along the southwestern slopes of the foothills.

The bush covered slopes and ridgelines form a dominant skyline and defining boundary between northern and central Waikato District. Mountain is highly recognisable from wider viewing points from the south and east forming a waypoint. The legibility of the formative natural processes are evident with its relationship with the Waikato River, which cuts between the Hakarimata Range. Transient values are largely associated with seasonal and weather conditions. Taupiri is a sacred mountain which included fortified paa and now forms one of Waikato's most sacred and well known urupaa. Very significant to the local landscape Taupiri is closely recognised with Tuarangawaewae and the Kiingitanga.

Shared and recognised values for the community largely relate to the formative backdrop and boundary the range provides along with the renowned cultural significance of Taupiri. The mountain and the Waikato River which cuts between the Hakarimata and Taupiri Range forms a gateway between the central and northern Waikato District.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Naho, Ngaati Hine, Ngaati Wairere, Ngaati Makirangi, Ngaati Mahuta, Ngaati Whaawhaakia, Ngaati Kuiaarangi and Ngaati Tai

Marae | Matahuru, Te Hoe o Tainui and Taniwha – Tangoao.

Mauri

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The Taupiri urupaa is located within the Taupiri Range, therefore the Taupiri Range is recognised as a cultural and spiritual web. There are a number of culturally significant sites located within Taupiri Range, including Te Iringa, Te Uapata and Otahau Paa which is located on the fringes of the Taupiri Range.

Tautoko ngaa Paemaunga o Taupiri he waahi motuhake koorero hohonu hoki ki ngaa whakapapa o Waikato.

Waahi tapu

Mount Taupiri is a sacred mountain and burial ground for the Waikato-Tainui tribe. Te Putu built Taupiri paa on the summit of a spur where he resided until his murder in 1700s. Te Putu was buried at the paa, which need became tapu (sacred) and was abandoned. Early European travellers in the area were obliged by iwi to cross to the other side of the Waikato River to avoid the sacred area.

Koorero-o-mua

The Waikato River provides a physical and sustenance for the Waikato-Tainui people. The spirits of ancestors mingle with its waters, which is used in rituals. In the early 19th century Kaitotehe was the home of Pootatau Te Wherowhero, the paramount chief of Ngaati Mahuta who became the first Maaori King. English explorer and artist George French Angas visited Kaitotehe in 1844 and painted a scene depicting a hui (meeting) taking place in the village. Taupiri mountain is seen in the background on the other side of the Waikato River (which is not visible below the far palisade). The lower peak on the far right shows signs of the terraces of Te Putu's abandoned paa. To its left, in about the middle of the painting, is a still-lower bush-clad hill, which was the burial ground in Te Putu's time and below which his home of Te Mata-o-tutonga stood.

Rawa tuuturu

I ngaa waa o mua tika taau, engari kaare mohio i tenei waa te oranga o ngaa rawa tupuna kia tuu mataara kaitiaki hoki.

Hiaha tuuturu

The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato- Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

Tautoko ka tanumia a taatou huanga puumau tonuu ki Taupiri Kuao.

Whakaaronui o te waa

Many Waikato tribes lived at paa on the banks of the Waikato River, and the last part of the pepeha denotes this activity, the importance of their chiefs and the taniwha that lived in the river. Ngaaruawaahia was also the home of Pootatau Te Wherowhero, the first Maaori King who led the Kiingitanga movement from 1858- 1860. It is the home of the Maaori dynasty and the current Maaori King, Tuuheitia Paki. Maaori undertake a series of pest management practices within the range, including goat culling and possum trapping. The experiences gained by rangatahi undertaking such activity re-enforces the role of kaitiakitanga and mana matauranga to local mana whenua, with the ability to learn more about conservation techniques, methodologies and strategies.

Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users.

The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For

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example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

Evaluation

Biophysical	<u>Very high natural science factors associated with the scale and quality of the biotic and abiotic processes occurring within the bush covered slopes of the Taupiri Range.</u> <u>Natural vegetation vary throughout the bush covered slopes of the Range.</u>
Sensory	<u>High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the range remaining dynamic in its biotic and abiotic processes. The aesthetic coherence is very high diminishing at its edged as a result of adjoining agricultural land use.</u>
Associative	<u>High to very high levels of shared and recognised values.</u> <u>Very high cultural heritage values associated prolific food source the wetlands provided to Maaori.</u> <u>Significant recorded cultural values associated with the feature for tangata whenua.</u>

Threats

Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:

- Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover.
- Modification to the visually legible ranges skyline profile from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance.
- Built development within the bush clad slopes resulting in a loss of naturalness.
- Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some built development can be accommodated through sensitive design.

Outstanding Natural Feature: **Hakarimata Range**

Description:

Like the Taupiri Range, the Hakarimata Range forms part of a continuous geological formation with as a Mesozoic rock formation of the Newcastle Group. Divided by the Waikato River the modification to the landform is apparent from the existing State Highway and cultural and productive land use practices on the wider range, including quarrying on its western foothills. Rising to a summit of 374m the native bush vegetation cover is of high ecological value.

The biotic values are high comprising a lowland broadleaf-podocarp dominated forest including large rata and rimu. The bush reserve also contains a number of threatened plants including the native daphne/topara.

The bush covered slopes and ridgelines form a dominant skyline and defining boundary between western and central Waikato District. The range is highly recognisable from wider viewing points from the south and east forming a waypoint. Recreational use of the range is prevalent with numerous walking tracks throughout the feature.

The legibility of the formative natural processes are evident with its relationship with the Waikato River, which extends alongside the range to the east. Forming a backdrop to the settlements of Ngaaruawaahia and Taupiri the range has very high levels of aesthetic coherence. Similarly, the high transient values are largely associated with seasonal and weather conditions.

The range is of very high cultural heritage significance to tangata whenua locally. District wide the feature is high recognisable and well known for its recreational and historical importance. The local historic heritage values are well known through the access from recreational tracks and interpretation managed by the Department of Conservation.

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Historical significance of the historical rail line which provided access for coal mining operations. A 750,000 litre water reservoir, established in 1922, once served the town of Ngaaruawaahia and is now also a feature of the Waterworks Walk within the range.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Naho, Ngaati Hine, Ngaati Wairere, Ngaati Makirangi, Ngaati Mahuta, Ngaati Whaawhaakia, Ngaati Kuiaarangi and Ngaati Tai

Marae | Matahuru, Te Hoe o Tainui, Taniwha – Tangoao.

Mauri

The mauri for this site is recognised and supported by Waikato Tainui River Settlement Trust.

He waahi ngaakaunuitia ki ngaa whakapapa o Waikato/Tainui.

Waahi tapu

This pepeha (tribal saying) of the Waikato people, denotes the significance and the spiritual connection that tangata whenua have with the river and the land. The Waikato River was the primary source of food, transport, ritual and tradition for Maaori - it was their life blood.

Taupiri maunga (mountain) is the sacred mountain of Waikato-Tainui. It was the historical Paa site of the Waikato Chief Te Putu but after his slaying, the mountain became the burial ground of the Maaori Kings, the Maaori Queen and also the people of Waikato-Tainui.

Ae orite ki ngaa waahi katoa mena kii mai he waahi tapu raatou katoa e tapiri nei ki ngaa waahi tapu a raatou kaitiaki.

Koorero-o-mua

Six hundred years ago the Tainui tohunga Rakataura sent out Rotu and Hiaora to place a boundary marker on the Haakarimata Range to define the lands of Tainui. The marker was mauri koohatu, a talismanic stone intended to ensure a permanent abundance of forest birds for food (DOC, 2016).

Rawa tuuturu

Haakarimata owes its name to a conciliatory feast at various marae between the Ngaati Maniapoto and the Waikato people in the 17th century. The feast is said to have consisted of mainly uncooked delicacies and the hills were subsequently named Haakari-kai-mata which means the mountain of 'uncooked food', now shortened to Hakarimata.

Tautoko ka tu mataara toonu ki ngaa ngaarara e whaka mate ngaa rawa me ngaa taonga Maaori.

Hiahia tuuturu

Parcels of privately owned Maaori land exists within the range, aimed at ensuring a sense of cultural ownership and cultural connectedness to the Hakarimata Range for present and future generations.

Whakaaronui o te waa

The Hakarimata Range is one of a succession of ranges running roughly north to south and forming the western boundary of the Waikato Basin. Sandstone, siltstone and greywacke, which have been strongly folded, faulted and overlain by other sedimentary rocks, form the Hakarimata Range and adjacent land. To the north and west of the range is one of New Zealand's major coal producing areas.

He waahi motuhake tonu ki ngaa huanga me ngaa haapori o te rohe e whiikoi ki runga i ngaa ara ki roto nei.

There are a number of quarries working within the Taupri range that source greywacke. Local Maaori work at these quarries. Maaori undertake a series of pest management practices within the range, including goat culling and possum trapping. The experiences gained by rangatahi undertaking such activity re-enforces the role of kaitiakitanga and mana matauranga to local mana whenua, with the ability to learn more about conservation techniques, methodologies and strategies.

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Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users.

The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

Evaluation

Biophysical	Very high natural science factors associated with the scale and quality of the biotic and abiotic processes occurring within the bush covered slopes of the Hakarimata Range.
	Natural vegetation vary throughout the bush covered slopes of the Range.
Sensory	High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the wetland remaining dynamic in its biotic and abiotic processes. The aesthetic coherence is very high diminishing at its edged as a result of adjoining agricultural land use.
	Transient values associated with season change in flora and weather conditions create a range of experiences within the range.
Associative	High to very high levels of shared and recognised values.
	Very high cultural heritage values associated prolific food source the wetlands provided to Maaori.
	Significant recorded cultural values associated with the feature for tangata whenua.
	High historic heritage values.

Threats

Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:

- Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover.
- Modification to the visually legible ranges skyline profile from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance.
- Built development within the bush clad slopes resulting in a loss of naturalness.
- Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some built development can be accommodated through sensitive design.

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Outstanding Natural Feature: Kokako Hills

Description:

Like Hakarimata Range, Kokako Hills is part of the continuous geological formation with as a Mesozoic rock formation of the Newcastle Group. Divided by the Waipaa River the modification to the landform is apparent from the existing State Highway and cultural and productive land use practices on the wider range, including productive forestry. Managed as a DOC reserve the native bush vegetation cover is of high ecological value however weed species extend throughout including wilding pines, gorse and other herbaceous weed species. The biotic values are high comprising a lowland broadleaf-podocarp dominated forest including large rata and rimu.

Forming a large native bush stand between Whatawhata and Whaingaroa the Kokoa Hills is expressive of the historical, pre-human, land cover that would have existed across the entire range. The landform and land cover is highly expressive of the natural qualities and formative processes. The aesthetic coherence is of high value along the ridgelines of the range with the edges forming inorganic patterns as a result of land ownership. The hills are highly vivid as a backdrop to the Whaingaroa Harbour comprising similarly high transient values as the Hakarimata Range.

The range is of high cultural heritage significance to tangata whenua locally as a dominant food source for the harbour based historical occupation around Whaingaroa harbour. District wide the feature is high recognisable as a bordering native bush block between the central and western Waikato.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Maahanga and Ngaati Tamainupo.

Marae | Waingaro, Te Papaorotu, Te Kaharoa, and Omaero.

Mauri – The mauri (for example life force) and mana (for example prestige) of the place or resource holds special significance to Maaori.

Waahi tapu – The place or resource is a waahi tapu of special, cultural, historic and or spiritual importance to Maaori

Koorero-o-mua – The place has special historical and cultural significance to Maaori

Rawa tuuturu – The place provides important customary resources for Maaori

Hiahia tuuturu – The place or resource is a venue or repository for Maaori cultural practices and spiritual values

Whakaaronui o te waa – The place has special amenity, architectural or educational significance to Maaori.

Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users.

The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

Evaluation

Biophysical	<u>Very high natural science factors associated with the scale and quality of the biotic and abiotic processes occurring within the bush covered slopes of the Kokako Hill Range.</u>
	<u>Natural vegetation vary throughout the bush covered slopes of the Range.</u>

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Sensory	<u>High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the bus remaining dynamic in its biotic processes. The aesthetic coherence is very high diminishing at its edged as a result of adjoining agricultural and productive forestry land use.</u>
	<u>Transient values associated with season change in flora and weather conditions create a range of experiences of the range.</u>
Associative	<u>High to very high levels of shared and recognised values.</u>
	<u>Very high cultural heritage values associated prolific food source the wetlands provided to Maori.</u>
Threats	
<p><u>Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Earthworks, quarrying and excavation that results in large scale scarring of the landscape and features, resulting in loss of legible landform, ridgelines and native vegetation cover.</u> ▪ <u>Modification to the visually legible ranges skyline profile from earthworks, structures, buildings and vegetation clearance.</u> ▪ <u>Built development within the bush clad slopes resulting in a loss of naturalness.</u> ▪ <u>Built development resulting in loss of dominant vegetation cover and clearance of native bush cover contributing to the overall aesthetic coherence. Recognising some built development can be accommodated through sensitive design.</u> 	

Outstanding Natural Feature:

Manuaitu including - Wairēinga (Bridal Veil Falls) / Te Pahi / Oioroa

Description:

Manuaitu is the area which encompasses Te Pahi and Oioroa and part of Wairēinga and Toreparu Wetland. Therefore, the cultural narratives regarding Manuaitu are applicable to these identified landscapes.

Wairēinga is a plunge waterfall and native bush stand located on the Pakoka River. Plunging 55m over a basalt ledge into soft sand stone, the large pool at the bottom of the falls is surrounded by a Tawa dominated forest which includes numerous stands of tree ferns and nikau palm. Part of the volcanic shelf of the Okete volcanic formation the waterfall area includes the native bush cover included within the Wairēinga Scenic Reserve, being some 217ha in size (Briggs, 1983).

Te Pahi is a large stand of native bush along the harbour and stream margins at the northern end of Aotea Harbour. The forest provides complete vegetation sequencing to the harbour edge and is identified as a key ecological site by the Waikato Regional Council.

Oioroa is a renowned geopreservation site which is of national significance as a mobile sand dune system. Vegetation cover transitions from sand dune to estuarine vegetation and is recognised regionally as a key ecological site. The sand dune area is designated as a scientific reserve.

Wairēinga is a popular recreational destination with a short walk to the falls. The scenic qualities are renowned and well photographed. Whilst a small area of native bush the aesthetic coherence of the feature is very high with a high level of legibility of the formative processes of the landform and vegetation cover.

Te Pahi forms a highly expressive feature that has high levels of aesthetic coherence with its connection to the harbour edge and sequencing to estuarine vegetation. The vividness of the feature is of a moderate to high level with a high sense of naturalness associated with the lack of modification the area, apart from its margins adjoining agricultural land use.

Oioroa forms a highly expressive and dynamic feature that is constantly expressing its ongoing formative processes. The sequencing of vegetation patterns from the dunes to the harbour margin provide an insight into what would have been the natural landscape pre-human occupation.

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Wairēinga forms strong associative values attributed to its renowned status as a recreational destination. Frequently photographed and used as an iconic feature of the District, the shared and recognised values are high to very high. The cultural significance of the site is also very high.

Te Pahi remains largely isolated and is viewed mostly from Aotea and its harbour. With limited access and largely difficult to view from public viewpoints the remoteness results in moderate shared and recognised values attributed to it.

Oioroa is highly recognisable to the local and district wide community. Photographed and iconic to the District as the largest west coast dune system the feature comprises very high shared and recognised values. Similarly, the cultural heritage values are very high and are attributed to the historical occupation of the area and waahi tapu on the site.

Te Ao Maaori (Iwi Hapuu narrative)

Hapuu associations | Ngaati Whakamarurangi, Ngaati Mahuta, Ngaati Te Wehi, Tainui, Ngaati Tamainupo, Ngaati Mahanga.

Marae | Poihaakena, Mootakotako, Te Papatapu, Te Tihi o Moerangi Makomako

Mauri

The name Manuaitu is a Rarotongan term used in ancient times to refer to a class of priest who as seers, astrologers, propitiators and diviners could foretell the future. It is the name that toi whenua i.e those hapuu who hold ancestral rights to the land refer to when speaking of the land that stretches from the Aotea harbour, north to the outlet of the Toreparu wetland and east to Wairēinga and the trig station at Kaikai. It was the also the name that the eponymous ancestor Whatihua gave to his paa site. In particular, the name Manuaitu refers to the small cone shaped hill to the east of Whatihua's paa where ritual activity was concentrated.

Wairēinga is the original Maaori name for the waterfall which plunges into Pakoka river, it means "leaping waters", waters of life fed from the many tributaries of the Wharauora plateau. Paakeha translated the name as 'water of the underworld' or 'waters of hell'. During the tourism drive in 1930's Paakeha changed the original name of Wairēinga to Bridal Veil Falls. In 2009, the New Zealand Geographic Board officially recognised the original name, Waireinga.

Oioroa is designated the Aotea Scientific Reserve and is part of the Manuaitu area.

Waahi tapu

Within the Manuaitu area are numerous ancient Tainui paa, the principal ones being Manuaitu, Owahakarito, Kooreromaiwaho, Te Rau o te Huia, Puangi, Herangi, all of these pā are on the north side of Aotea, the exception being Horoure which is on the south side across from Oioroa. Toroanui and Orongoheke are north of the Toreparu wetland in the area known as Ruapuke (hills of storage pits). The Pakoka River spills 55 metres over a lip of basalt into a natural amphitheatre. Surrounding forest includes orchids and five species of raataa.

Rewatuu reef lies just offshore, the physical manifestation of the capsized waka of Poowhetenguu turned to stone as he attempted to follow Kupe back to Hawaiki. Aotea harbour takes its name from the the waka of Turi who is said to have arrived laden with people, mana, mauri and goods including the rat, puukeko, kumara and karaka, hence the saying "Aotea, utanga nui i te kai i te korero."

The Aotea waka landed between Kaawhia and Aotea with the bow facing the sea and the stern facing inland. The descendants of the waka, Nga Rauru, performed a ritual called the 'whaka awhiawhia' which gave the name of Kawhia (Tautahi & Taipuhi, 1900).

Koorero-o-mua

Wairēinga is one of the boundary markers (pou whenua) for the Manuaitu area. Associated with the main paa are many smaller paa and settlement sites, cultivation grounds, Saltwater and freshwater fishing grounds,

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bird snaring grounds, battle grounds, early mission, church and native school sites, flax mills, early trading store sites, the first flour mill in Waikato was in operation here. Oioroa is currently known as the Aotea Scientific Reserve a 1200 acre sand dune block within the Manuaitu area. The shifting dunes cover old settlement sites, wetland areas and burial sites. Dotterels nest along the foreshore. The Toreparu wetland consisting of some 500 acres also lies within the Manuaitu area. Some of the earliest land transactions between the Crown and Māori took place here, Horokawau and Toroanui were Native reserves set aside from those early sales for Tainui and Ngaati Whakamarurangi.

Rawa tuuturu – Restoration and rejuvenation of indigenous forest species and pristine waters is the desired goal at Wairēinga.

Hiahia tuuturu – The place or resource is a venue or repository for Maaori cultural practices and spiritual values.

Whakaaronui o te waa

A stone slab was sourced from Pakihi, close to Wairēinga, and was taken to Horoure paa on the south side of Aotea opposite the Oioroa dune area. It was used as a pahuu (sounding board) and when struck could be heard at Papanui on the western side of Karioi.

Overview

For Waikato-Tainui all land has mauri and all land has value to Waikato-Tainui. The mauri of much of the land within the rohe of Waikato-Tainui has been adversely affected by its historical and current use. Waikato-Tainui seeks to restore the mauri of the land in balance with achieving the environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic aspirations of Waikato-Tainui. Waikato-Tainui recognises that restoring the mauri of land needs to occur in partnership with the wider community, local authorities, government, and commercial and industrial users.

The ability to access and effectively utilise land is intrinsically linked to the ability of Waikato-Tainui to provide for the environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic health and wellbeing of Waikato-Tainui. Land can have distinct or, at times, overlapping values depending on the use of the land. For example, land set aside as an urupaa (burial site) has a different environmental, social, spiritual, cultural, and economic value than land set aside for Waikato-Tainui economic initiatives.

Evaluation

<u>Biophysical</u>	<u>Very high natural science factors for Wairēinga, Potahi Point and Manuaitu.</u>
	<u>Dominant native vegetation cover adjoining the harbour margins. Striking native tawa forest surrounding Wairēinga.</u>
	<u>Native vegetation on Manuaitu is of high ecological value</u>
	<u>Potahi Point provides a rare sequencing of native vegetation dune to estuarine vegetation.</u>
<u>Sensory</u>	<u>High levels of legibility of the formative processes with the waterfall bush, wetland, harbour bush and dune lands.</u>
	<u>The dunes remain highly dynamic in their biotic and abiotic processes. Along with their cohesion with the ecological processes occurring throughout the vegetation sequence to the harbour margin.</u>
	<u>The expressiveness of the waterfall and the volcanic and sedimentary geomorphology is visually apparent.</u>
	<u>The aesthetic coherence of Waireinga, Manuaitu and Potahi are very high diminishing at its edged as a result of adjoining agricultural land use.</u>
<u>Associative</u>	<u>High to very high levels of shared and recognised values for Wairēinga and Potahi Point.</u>
	<u>High to very high levels of cultural heritage values associated prolific food source the wetlands provided to Maaori.</u>
	<u>Significant recorded cultural values associated with the all four features for tangata whenua.</u>

Threats

Threats to the character and qualities of the river margins and wetland area include:

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- Earthworks, quarrying and excavation disrupting natural dune, bush and wetland vegetation patterns.
- Walkways and structures on the natural dune patterns.
- Structures modifying natural patterns of wetlands.
- Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting natural formations including watercourse.
- Loss or modification to cultural and historic heritage features.
- Modification to natural processes that continue within the wetland, bush and dunes.
- Loss of native vegetation within the features.

Outstanding Natural Features: Geographical features

Description:

<u>Geological feature</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Location/Map ref</u>
<u>Daff Road Jurassic Plant Beds</u>	<u>Well reserved Jurassic plant beds of Huriwai Formation. Quarry exposes a 10 m thick sequence through Huriwai Formation, including 2 m of rich plant fossil bearing argillites. Sand beds also contain wood and other scattered plant fossils.</u>	<u>In farm quarry, 200 metres north of Putataha tuff ring and 400 metres south of farm airstrip, 2 km south of end of Daff Road</u>
<u>Kaawa Creek - Ngatatura Bay Section</u>	<u>Complexly interrelated upper Cenozoic strata and faulting. Only significant Pliocene fauna in north-west North Island. Rich, diverse and well-preserved molluscs. Good example of faulting. Most impressive coastal landforms eroded into columnar-jointed basalt in NZ. Spectacular outcrops of dissected eruptive centre including lava flows, dikes and diatreme.</u>	<u>In coastal cliffs for 1 km south of Kaawa Creek mouth</u>
<u>Moeweka Quarry Jurassic Fauna</u>	<u>Excellent molluscan and brachiopod fossil fauna of Late Jurassic (Heterian) age.</u>	<u>Quarry just north of Ponganui Road, Wairamarama</u>
<u>Onewhero Tuff Ring</u>	<u>Large robust landforms.</u>	<u>Bounds Kaipo Flats approximately 1-2 km north-west of Onewhero village</u>
<u>Opuatia Cliff Jurassic Fauna</u>	<u>Rich, diverse and well-preserved molluscan and brachiopod fossil fauna of mid Jurassic (Temaikan) age.</u>	<u>North of Ponganui Road, on Opuatia Stream, Wairamarama</u>
<u>Pukekawa III Scoria Cone</u>	<u>Volcano landform.</u>	<u>Adjacent and to the west of Highway 22 just north-west of Pukekawa village</u>
<u>Huriwai Beach Jurassic Plant Beds</u>	<u>Extremely well-preserved and historically significant late Jurassic fossil flora. Type locality of several species.</u>	<u>Huriwai Beach</u>
<u>Evaluation of Geographical features</u>		
<u>Geoscience Values</u>		

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- a) Geoscience significance - the extent to which the landform, feature or geological site contributes to the understanding of the geology or evolution of the biota in the District, Region, New Zealand or the Earth;
- b) Rarity - the rarity or unique nature of the feature, physical process or geological exposure within the District or Region, and few comparable examples exist;
- c) Representative values - the extent to which the feature is an outstanding representative example of the natural landforms, natural physical processes or geological features that strongly typify the character of an area;
- d) Research potential of the feature to provide additional understanding of the geological or biotic history;
- e) Group values – the extent to which the feature contributes to a themed group of sites of significant community value (e.g. South Auckland volcanoes group);
- f) Geohistorical value - the extent to which a feature is associated with an historically important natural event (e.g. earthquake, tsunami), geologically-related industry, or historically-important individual involved in geoscience research;

Perceptual Values

- g) Scenic/aesthetic values – extent of public appreciation of a natural feature's visually-striking scenic beauty, or iconicism;
- h) Prominence of views of the feature or views from the feature;

Associative Criteria

- i) Tourism and/or recreational values – extent of a feature's use or potential use for tourism or recreation because of the feature's natural attributes;
- j) Community values – extent of the community's association with a natural feature which is widely known and highly valued for its contribution to local identity within its community;
- k) Educational values - the existing or potential value of the feature for public education;
- l) Visual legibility – how clearly the feature's values can be seen;
- m) Preservation and/or naturalness of the feature – including degree of natural degradation of values by weathering or erosion, as well as degree of modification by humans;
- n) Memorability of the feature, because of its striking visual character and setting that make such an impact on the senses that it becomes unforgettable;
- o) Ecological value of the biota, including vegetation, associated with the feature;
- p) Historic or archaeological values associated with the feature; and
- q) Indigenous cultural values – the importance of the feature or site to Mana Whenua (most appropriately undertaken by local iwi).

Threats

Threats to the character and qualities of the features include:

- Earthworks, quarrying and excavation disrupting natural vegetation patterns and geological formations.
- Modification to geopreservation sites disrupting the natural formations.
- Loss or modification to cultural and historic heritage features.

Attachment 5: Schedule of Natural Character Areas

Amend proposed Waikato District Plan by adding Schedule after Schedule 30.6:

Schedule 30.7 Attributes of High and Outstanding Natural Character Areas

Contents

<u>Assessment of Natural Character Areas</u>	
<u>High Natural Character Areas</u>	<u>Port Waikato Coastal Area</u> <u>Opura Coastal Area</u> <u>Whaingaroa Coastal Area</u> <u>Karioi Coastal Area</u> <u>Aotea Coastal Area</u>
<u>Outstanding Natural Character Area</u>	<u>Margins of Aotea Harbour</u>

<u>Assessment of Natural Character Areas</u>			
	<u>Attributes</u>	<u>Descriptors</u>	<u>Spectrum of naturalness*</u>
<u>NATURAL SCIENCE</u>	<u>Terrestrial Abiotic Systems</u>	<u>Climatic influences (wind, rain, exposure);</u> <u>Geomorphology and identification of different types of landforms (i.e., peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands);</u> <u>Terrestrial coastal processes, including erosion, river mouth processes including sedimentation (within the terrestrial zone);</u> <u>Freshwater processes.</u> <u>Including RPS Assessment criteria:</u> <u>Landforms (Geology/ Geomorphology)</u> <u>Natural Processes (abiotic).</u>	<u>The evident intactness of the abiotic systems. The degree (very high to very low) to which physical modifications such as built structures, road cuts, earthworks and reclamation works affect this abiotic attribute.</u>
	<u>Terrestrial Biotic systems</u>	<u>The margins of estuaries, wetlands and terrestrial areas in Zone B including the intactness of their natural ecological processes, patterns and elements;</u> <u>Extent of freshwater communities;</u> <u>Land cover and associated land use, including the composition, distribution and condition of land</u>	<u>The degree (very high to very low) to which modifications affect this biotic attribute. Influences include the presence of exotic species on native communities, physical structures such as infrastructure, housing.</u>

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		<u>cover and the presence of indigenous/exotic species;</u> <u>Presence of indigenous fauna.</u> <u>Including RPS Assessment criteria:</u> <u>Vegetation Cover & Type;</u> <u>Land Uses/ Activities/ Structures</u> <u>Habitat Value</u> <u>Natural Processes (biotic)</u>	<u>roading, tracking, reclaimed land, stop banks, as well as commercial forestry.</u> <u>agricultural and viticulture land use that reduce the naturalness of the biota.</u> <u>This attribute also includes modifications to freshwater systems, including channelising watercourses, stop banks, culverts, dams etc. which affect freshwater biota.</u>
HUMAN	Terrestrial Experiential	<u>The experience in seeing, feeling and perceiving the Coastal Significance and Active Coastal Interface;</u> <u>Aromas, visual and scenic, auditory, sense of wildness, remoteness, isolation, natural darkness of the night sky;</u> <u>Ephemeral biotic activity (i.e. seasonality of flora, presence of birds);</u> <u>Ephemeral human activity affecting the naturalness (such as recreation, commercial activities;</u> <u>Note, this attribute does not include heritage elements.</u> <u>Including RPS Assessment criteria:</u> <u>Wilderness/ Remoteness;</u> <u>Experiential Attributes;</u> <u>Context/ Setting</u> <u>Transient/ Dynamic attributes</u> <u>Night-time values</u>	<u>The degree (very high to very low) to which physical and biotic modifications affect the naturalness experienced. Influences reducing naturalness include the presence of physical structures including ports, reclaimed land, infrastructure, roading, lighting, industrial noises and non-natural aromas;</u> <u>- Presence of exotic species;</u> <u>- Presence of humans including recreational activities (driving, walking, camping, settlements);</u> <u>- Note, different people experience naturalness differently.</u>

** Each Coastal Terrestrial Area is measured on the spectrum of naturalness (degree of human modifications) to each attribute from Very High to Very Low, then an overall judgement is made. The degree of physical and experiential naturalness is related to the location's context.*

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High Natural Character Areas

Port Waikato Coastal Area	
Overall Natural Character Rating: Moderate	
Overview:	<p>This Coastal Terrestrial Area extends from the northern part of the district's West Coast southwards to Port Waikato and includes the Waikato River mouth and Okariha Sand Spit. Typically, the beach profile ends abruptly with a steep coastal cliff of variable height which represents the actively eroding face of very large old dunes that are tens of metres high. Settlement of the northern coastal cliffs is centred around Karioitahi Beach with the next settlement being Port Waikato and Sunset Beach. Access to the northern coastal cliffs is limited to Karioitahi Beach and the predominant land use is agricultural grazing for dairy, sheep and drystock farming. Sand mining operations extend along the northern edge of the Waikato River mouth and are encompassed in productive forestry. Further south along the Waikato River the Coastal Marine. Area extends into the river wetlands and islands which contain numerous 'maimai' for duck hunting and stands for whitebaiting activities.</p>
Abiotic (Moderate to High)	<p>The Port Waikato Coastal Terrestrial Area is characterised by a narrow beach backed by steep bluffs that typically rise from 120m to 190m above sea level. The cliff faces are subject to extensive erosion with predominantly pasture forming the vegetation cover along cliff tops and plateau.</p> <p>Sand country is common along this coastal unit and is apparent with migrating sand dunes, sand sheets and blowouts along the cliff faces and tops.</p> <p>Pockets of narrow dunes extend along the foot of the coastal cliffs with modification associated with vehicle access tracks.</p> <p>Ephemeral streams, prevailing winds and high energy waves subject this area of the coast to considerable erosion.</p> <p>To the immediate north of the Waikato River mouth the sand dunes are steep and modified through productive forestry use accompanied with sand mining operations.</p>
Biotic (Moderate to Low)	<p>Land cover analysis: Almost 48% of the land cover is rural production land with a further 22% being plantation forestry and 3% being a sand mine. Of the remainder, 15% is estuarine open water, lake/pond, and sand/gravel, and 2% is urban area. Only 8% is indigenous vegetation comprising forest, wetland or manuka/kanuka scrubland. There is a very small area (<1%) of gorse/broom.</p> <p>The biotic environment is strongly influenced by abiotic environment processes both historically and today. The narrow high energy beach environment actively erodes the dunelands, which terminate in a steep and mobile dune face. Bare sand occurs where severe winds and salt spray have completely removed vegetation leaving exposed sand.</p> <p>At the southern end of the Coastal Terrestrial Area, the Waikato River provides a dominant fluvial process, generating a flat floodplain and shifting sequences of mudflats, islands, saltmarshes, and wetlands.</p> <p>Today, coastal vegetation is very limited and typically found only on the coastal dune face and providing variable cover in pasture, depending on the land management regime. The vegetation is highly modified by vegetation clearance and grazing with only less palatable species present or those capable of surviving on the mobile coastal cliff environment.</p>

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	<p><u>The streams discharging to the coast are generally first-order streams with very small catchments. Because of the sand substrate, most are likely to be ephemeral or intermittent, with pools persisting in deeper gullies. Where gullies have incised more deeply to bedrock, streams may be perennial and provide a more stable aquatic habitat.</u></p> <p><u>The streams themselves are likely to be affected by the lack of riparian cover, with their small size making them particularly vulnerable to temperature impacts. They will also be impacted by livestock access, erosion, sedimentation, enrichment, and a lack of suitable instream habitat (e.g., woody debris and aquatic plants).</u></p> <p><u>The Waikato River is home to a diverse assemblage of freshwater and saltwater fish taking advantage of the rich resources of the Waikato River delta. The delta is known for whitebait fishery and provides a habitat, nursery, and conduit for migrating freshwater species.</u></p> <p><u>The Delta is also home to a multitude of exotic and indigenous waterfowl, marsh birds, and shorebirds using the various mud flat, sand flat, saltmarsh and wetland habitats for feeding and breeding.</u></p> <p><u>Port Waikato dunes provide nesting and roosting areas, and the area is on the flightpath for migratory shorebirds. Variable oystercatchers' winter at Port Waikato, New Zealand dotterels are permanently resident and Caspian terns breed there.</u></p> <p><u>The river mouth also offers temporary habitat for seals, dolphins, and sharks.</u></p>
<u>Experiential (Moderate)</u>	<p><u>Largely in private ownership, access to the coastal edge is limited to Karioitahi Beach to the north and Port Waikato and Sunset Beach to the south of the Waikato River Mouth. This area of the coast is remote and dramatic in its form, with the natural processes of the coast dominating the coastal experience.</u></p> <p><u>Human modification is apparent through development of dwellings and accommodation around Karioitahi Beach and productive farming.</u></p> <p><u>Whilst dramatic in its remoteness and experience of the coastal processes these modifications are apparent and recognisable.</u></p> <p><u>Further south, modification of the coastal edge increases with productive forestry and sand mining to the north of the Waikato River Mouth. The settlement of Port Waikato and Sunset Beach provide the southernmost access to the coastal edge for this Coastal Terrestrial Area.</u></p>
Port Waikato Specific Characteristics – Identified Areas at Level 4	
Okariha Sand Spit	
Rating:	High
Key Values:	<p><u>Dynamic dune system with dominant dune patterns uniquely influenced by fluvial and coastal processes. These processes remain unmodified. Largest example of river mouth dune system along the Waikato West coast.</u></p> <p><u>Native dune species are prevalent mixed with exotic weed species.</u></p> <p><u>Highly dynamic and dominant coastal processes with a large dune system that extends in a full sequence from the coastline to the river edge.</u></p> <p><u>A strong sense of the natural systems of the river are apparent through the intertidal movements and sand accretion and erosion at the distal end of the sand spit.</u></p>
Additional Comments	
<p><u>Dunes remain intact with minor patterns of modification from vehicle and pedestrian movement throughout.</u></p> <p><u>Forms an integral part of the coastal dune and cliff faces of the northern extent of the Waikato and Waikato River system.</u></p>	

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Opura Coastal Area	
Overall Natural Character Rating: Moderate	
Overview:	<p><u>This Coastal Terrestrial Area extends along the exposed, predominantly linear, coastline between the Waikato River Mouth and Raglan Harbour (Whaingaroa). This Coastal Terrestrial Area is principally undulating, where coastal, fluvial and tectonic processes have eroded the coastal edge to form a series of cliffs. Black sands dominate the beach and, where watercourses interact with the coastal environment, the land becomes flatter and dune-like. In some areas dunes and sand sheets are located on upper terraces and elevated well above the coastal edge. Most of the land is grazed, with the northern and steeper areas of the Coastal Terrestrial Area reverting to native bush cover. The remainder of the area is dominated by agricultural grazing as close to the coastal edge as possible.</u></p> <p><u>Public access is virtually impossible, with no public access gained through private land. The beach access is limited due to the rocky coastline and steep cliff faces, and sandy beaches are located around stream and gully floors that meet the coast.</u></p> <p><u>Key coastal characteristics include: Relatively straight, narrow stretch of coastline, black sand on beaches, steep coastal cliffs along the majority of the coastline, back dunes, flatter land associated with the mouths of watercourses where sand accumulation has occurred, grazing. Beyond the coastal environment the land continues to gently rise in elevation, creating a crumpled and hilly pastoral area. Settlement is restricted to small farmsteads and access predominantly is gained via private tracks.</u></p>
Abiotic (Moderate)	<p><u>Substantial sand dunes with high iron content have formed around the Kaawhia and Aotea Harbours.</u></p> <p><u>This coastline contains significant geological sites and features including the coastal cliffs of Port Waikato between Huriwai River and Waikawau Stream, Waiwiri Beach and Ngatutura Point.</u></p> <p><u>Geopreservation Sites include: Huriwai-Waikawau Coastal Section Jurassic/Oligocene unconformity (C3), Waiwiri Beach unconformity and Basal Waitemata group sediments (C3), Kaawa Creek – Ngatutura Bay section (B3) and Ngatutura Point dissected eruptive centre (C3).</u></p> <p><u>Key features of this coastal landscape include the sand sheets and dune incursions that extend inland and up the coastal escarpments. Pockets of native bush cover that extends toward the coastal edges reflect components of the pre-human occupation coastal landscape.</u></p>
Biotic (Moderate to Low)	<p><u>Land cover analysis: Almost 80% of the land cover is rural production land, and there is very little plantation forest. There is almost 15% indigenous vegetation cover, with most being manuka/kanuka or forest, and very small areas of flaxland or estuarine vegetation. Of the remainder, almost 3% is sand or landslide, almost 2% is gorse/broom or other scrub, less than 1% is estuarine open water, lake/pond, or river, and sand/gravel, and there is no urban area.</u></p> <p><u>The beach is narrow and high energy, actively eroding the coastal cliffs of mixed sedimentary rock and lava formations.</u></p> <p><u>Beyond the cliffs the underlying rock strata is from older more stable land units rather than dunes, although dunes are present on cliff tops that are elevated tens to hundreds of metres above the sea.</u></p> <p><u>Indigenous coastal vegetation is limited and typically found only on the narrow coastal cliffs and in the isolated patches of regenerating forest. The largest forest patch is Te Tehe Bush south of Port Waikato, and this is also the only forest remnant that extends to the coast.</u></p>

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	<u>The streams discharging to the coast are generally first- or second order perennial streams, along with eight larger waterways with catchments extending beyond the coastal zone. In some gullies, raupoo dominated wetlands persist, some covering relatively large areas, and isolated kahikatea specimens point to the swamp forest that would once have existed.</u>
<u>Experiential (Moderate to Low)</u>	<p><u>Inaccessible to the public the majority of this Coastal Terrestrial Area forms a remote part of the West Coast. No public roads extend to the coast, with some farm tracks extending along the coast with sporadic access to the coastal edge.</u></p> <p><u>Human modification is apparent through activities mainly associated with productive farming. The northern end of the area includes native vegetation cover and a rocky shoreline that is dynamic and dominated by natural processes and patterns. Whilst further south the coastal environment is largely farmed to the immediate coastal edge where possible. The large iron sand sheets that extend up into the coastal plateau and stream mouths are highly expressive of the coastal processes that occur in this high energy coastal environment.</u></p> <p><u>There is a strong sense of remoteness along this coast with the natural processes dominating the experience. The natural patterns are evident at many scales, with evidence of coastal erosion at large and small scales. The natural elements, including biotic cover, is limited to the northern and southern end of the coast and the immediate coastal edge where farming activities have been avoided. These areas provide a strong sense of naturalness or perceived naturalness for the user.</u></p>
Opura Specific Characteristics – Identified Areas at Level 4	
Nihonui Coast	
<u>Rating:</u>	<u>High</u>
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>Regenerating coastal vegetation sequencing to coastal edge with some areas of grassland. Abiotic processes dominate the coastal cliffs with exposed sedimentation layers evident and no modification along the coastal edge.</u>
<u>Additional Comments</u>	
<u>Regenerating coastal bush vegetation interspersed with some modification including access tracks.</u>	
Huriwai, Waikawau, Otangaroa, Kaawa, Waikorea, Waimai, Kotuku and Te Kaha Point Dunes	
<u>Rating</u>	<u>High</u>
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>Dynamic dune incursion system extending up the stream valley systems. Coastal processes are dominant with exposed iron sand sheets atop plateau with exposed coastal cliffs. Low lying dunes are evident on valley floor with streams and rear dune wetland systems remaining intact. Remote with private access gained only via farmland to the areas.</u>
<u>Additional Comments</u>	
<u>Little modification on the dune system largely as a result of dominant coastal processes. Erosion and tectonic processes evident and dominant along the coastal edge.</u>	

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Whaingaroa Coastal Area	
Overall Natural Character Rating: Moderate	
Overview:	<p>This Coastal Terrestrial Area surrounds Raglan/Whaingaroa Harbour and includes the settlement of Raglan and the gently undulating pastoral grazing land. The harbour itself extends for a long distance inland and has a largely unmodified landform, with a narrow neck and mouth relative to the size of the harbour. Surrounding watercourses drain into the harbour and, as a result, the margins are highly indented and alluvial. Raglan or Whaingaroa Harbour supports a number of areas of indigenous vegetation, which are principally located within the inner parts of the harbour. Access to the harbour is provided by State Highway 23 and the Ohautira Road. The Paritata Peninsula is a significant prominent focus central to the harbour, as is the large sand dune on the northern side of the harbour mouth.</p> <p>Key coastal characteristics include: The settlement of Raglan; highly indented estuarine coastline contained by undulating rural pastoral land; noted areas of indigenous bush, the prominent feature of Karakaringa on the Paritata Peninsula; the numerous watercourses that drain the surrounding coastal context and their associated river channels; largely undeveloped. Beyond the coastal environment, the coastal context contains the pastoral hinterland of rural Waikato including the largely indigenous area of Kokako.</p>
Abiotic (Moderate)	<p>Whaingaroa Harbour covers 33km² with a catchment area of 525km². With 70% of the harbour being intertidal and exposed at low tide a number of the upper arms of the catchment from the upper reaches of the intertidal zone.</p> <p>The north harbour mouth forms an extensive sand dune system that is rich in ironsands along with dune dammed lakes. The dune system transitions to an inner harbour landscape of headlands and embayments that are a mix of native bush and agricultural grazing land cover types. The landform comprises gentle to moderately steep rolling landscape of headlands and Rivers running into the harbour include Oporu River, Waingaro River, Tawatahi River and Waitetuna River. The Waingaro River is one of the largest sources of sediment for the Whaingaroa Harbour.</p>
Biotic (Moderate to Low)	<p>Land cover analysis: The total land area of the Whaingaroa Coastal Terrestrial Area is 7,988ha. Almost 70% of the land cover is rural production land with a further 2% being plantation forestry and cropland. Twelve percent is indigenous vegetation, principally manuka/kanuka with a small amount of wetland and indigenous forest. Of the remainder, 3% is lake/pond/river and sand/gravel/rock, 4% is urban area and parkland, and 4% is gorse/broom.</p> <p>The greywacke landform that defines Whaingaroa Harbour is relatively stable and subject to long term processes of fluvial erosion and harbour sedimentation. Apart from isolated patches of regenerating shrubland or reverting gorse, there is very little indigenous vegetation cover. Over the past 20 years there has been significant effort locally to replant the riparian margins of the catchment feeding the harbour as part of the Whaingaroa Environment Catchment Plan.</p> <p>Most streams discharging to the Harbour are generally first- and second-order perennial streams, but 12 are larger waterways with catchments extending well beyond the coastal zone. The streams are generally incised in gully networks with relatively unmodified channels. Many have been fenced from livestock and planted through the Whaingaroa Harbourcare programme, although most of the steep and less accessible first- and second-order streams remain unprotected.</p> <p>Farm tracks and road culverts may present some barriers to fish passage, but most streams offer a relatively natural habitat for a diverse range of freshwater fish, and access will be possible for fish migrating to and from Whaingaroa Harbour.</p>

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<u>Experiential (Moderate)</u>	<p><u>Large parts of the northern harbour margins are in private ownership and are inaccessible to the public.</u></p> <p><u>Modification to the harbour margins is consistent with rural farm dwellings, structure and jetties occupying the shoreline. The southern extent of the harbour is heavily modified with the settlement of Raglan which includes wharves, bridges, residential settlement and industrial activities.</u></p> <p><u>Human modification is apparent in the northern and western margins of the area through activities mainly associated with productive farming. Despite the modification, the many arms of the harbour create a sense of isolation and visual disconnect with the modified areas of the Coastal Terrestrial Area.</u></p> <p><u>Headlands and embayments in the northern and western areas of the harbour that are covered in native bush create a strong sense of remoteness along this coast, with the natural processes dominating the experience.</u></p> <p><u>The natural patterns are evidence at many scales with evidence of coastal erosion more evident along the modified areas of the coastal terrestrial area. The northern head of the harbour mouth is expressive of the natural processes, particularly during high winds.</u></p>
Whaingaroa Specific Characteristics – Identified Areas at Level 4	
Rangitoto Point	
<u>Rating</u>	<u>High</u>
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>The dynamic dune system extends from coastal edge to the inner harbour with natural patterns remaining intact. Vegetation cover is a mix of native and weed species. The natural dune processes are evident throughout and most apparent along the margins of the feature. A moderate sense of remoteness is evident within the feature.</u>
Additional Comments	
<u>Farming around the point and settlement along the inner harbour margins introduce modification to the natural abiotic and biotic sequencing of the dune system.</u>	
Motukokako Point, Te Kotuku, Waingaro, Pirere Point, Paroa Point and The Finger	
<u>Rating</u>	<u>High</u>
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>Biotic values of comprehensive areas of regenerating native bush along the inner harbour headlands. Interspersed with estuarine vegetation including sequencing from coastal bush, to saltmarsh to mangrove habitats.</u>
Additional Comments	
<u>Margins of the areas are defined by adjoining land use rather than natural patterns. Modification is largely in the form of access tracks and grazing of wild stock and pests underneath the canopy.</u>	

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Karioi Coastal Area	
Overall Natural Character Rating: Moderate	
Overview:	<p>Located immediately south of Raglan (Whaingaroa) Harbour and north of Aotea Harbour, this Coastal Terrestrial Area includes the northerly and westerly flanks of the extinct volcano of Karioi and the predominantly straight coastal duneland associated with Ruapuke Beach.</p> <p>Within the crumpled topography of the lower slopes of Karioi is the Te Toto Gorge, where a walking track extends in elevation to the top of the volcano.</p> <p>The majority of this Coastal Terrestrial Area is pastoral farming with areas around Karioi being predominantly indigenous.</p> <p>Key coastal characteristics include: The indigenous vegetated lower slopes of Karioi; the Te Toto Gorge area; the predominantly straight coastal edge of the southern section of this Coastal Terrestrial Area and its associated dunelands; predominantly pastoral land use with indigenous vegetation flanking parts of Karioi; access being provided by the Whaanga Road; any settlement associated with farms and satellite houses located off the small number of roads. Beyond the coastal environment, the coastal context to the north comprises the vegetated elevated slopes of Karioi. To the south are the pastoral undulating lands of Ruapuke.</p>
Abiotic (Moderate to High)	<p>This Coastal Terrestrial Area includes the extinct volcano of Karioi in the north, and the ancient sands and siltstones in the south. Karioi forms a backdrop to the Whaingaroa Harbour and settlement of Raglan. It is dissected by deep ravines that radiate from the summit and terminate, on the western side, in towering coastal cliffs (Woody Head) that expose basaltic lava interbedded with volcanic fragmental material penetrated by andesitic dikes.</p> <p>A particular feature of this is Te Toto Gorge, a geopreservation site. This feature comprises up to 15 lava flows which make up the 150m cliffs of the Gorge which display many large augite crystals up to 15mm. Other features of the Karioi volcanics include Papanui Point and a lava flow section at Whale Bay.</p> <p>Topographically the area is rugged with a rocky shoreline around Karioi before transitioning to steep cliffs and ironsand beaches further south. The inland coastal area is undulating and expressive of the coastal erosion processes occurring along the west coast. To the south, beyond the volcanics of Karioi, are the beach and dune deposits containing titanomagnetite (iron sands).</p>
Biotic (Moderate)	<p>Land cover analysis: The total land area of the Karioi Coastal Terrestrial Area is 3,218ha. More than 51% of the land cover is rural production land. Indigenous vegetation covers over 42% and is principally comprised of indigenous forest, with small proportions of flaxland, manuka/kanuka and other scrub. Of the remainder, 3% is sand/gravel, 1% is gorse/broom, and <1% is urban area.</p> <p>Both the volcanic landform of Karioi and the sedimentary rock strata to the south are relatively stable and subject to long term processes of fluvial and coastal erosion. The Karioi forests are a dominant feature of the Coastal Terrestrial Area, elsewhere there is very little indigenous vegetation cover, apart from isolated small patches of regenerating forest and the coastal cliff communities. However, threatened plants Hebe speciose and Cook's scurvy grass have been reintroduced to the Te Toto Gorge.</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council identifies parts of the Karioi forest and riparian areas as key ecological sites, and the remaining area is protected by scenic reserve and conservation park status. There are also several QEII covenant areas. Waikato Regional Council also identifies the Matawha Point coastal cliffs as a key ecological site, and part of this area, along with most of the adjacent headland north of Ruapuke Stream, is also protected by a QEII covenant. The</p>

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	<p><u>coastal cliffs from Woody Head to the southern side of Papanui Point are protected by a marginal strip.</u></p> <p><u>Almost all streams discharging to the coast are first- and second-order perennial streams, and only two have catchments extending beyond the coastal zone. The streams follow the topography and are incised in gully networks with relatively unmodified channels, except close to roads. Few have been fenced from livestock, although most of those on Karioi benefit from the indigenous forest cover and reserve status and will have very high ecological values.</u></p> <p><u>Like Opura, depending on their location and stream size, the catchments either have narrow floodplains close to sea level, or steeper incised catchments dominated by gullies elevated well above sea level and discharging to the coast via waterfalls.</u></p>
<u>Experiential (Moderate to High)</u>	<p><u>Residential and rural residential settlement are focused to the coastal edge near Whale Bay, with some properties extending along the spurs and ridges of Karioi footslopes. The coastal margin of Karioi is highly expressive of the natural processes and patterns occurring along the coastline and on the mountain.</u></p> <p><u>Fingers of native bush extend down the valleys toward the coast providing connection of the native coastal bush to the shoreline. DOC walking tracks extend around the coastline, with DOC facilities located along the lower coastal slopes of Karioi. Modification is apparent along the lower slopes with agricultural grazing interspersed along the shoreline of Karioi. Further modification along the lower footslopes is in the form of access tracks, both for pedestrians and off-road vehicles.</u></p> <p><u>Further south the landform transitions back too low to moderate rolling landscape with remnant dune systems that extend inland. Farming landuse is dominant and coastal vegetation patterns relatively sparse. The natural patterns and elements dominate only in areas where agricultural land use is difficult to achieve. Access to this area is limited to private access only, with public access only to Ruapuke Beach.</u></p>
<u>Karioi Specific Characteristics – Identified Areas at Level 4</u>	
<u>Karioi</u>	
<u>Rating</u>	<u>Very High</u>
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>Volcanic cliff faces extending steeply toward summit of Karioi. The natural processes are evident with the volcanic formations evident from coast to summit. Biotic elements comprise dominant native bush cover extending down to the coastal edge and along the cliffs. A highly remote experience dominated by the natural processes occurring.</u>
<u>Additional Comments</u>	
<u>Modification is interspersed amongst the vegetation patterns with open grazing areas, vehicle and walking tracks.</u>	
<u>Ruapuke and Rahinui Beaches</u>	
<u>Rating</u>	<u>High</u>
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>Valley floor dune systems comprising elevated dune sheets and dune systems extending inland to meet wetland systems. Vegetation cover is a good example of sequencing from coastal dune to coastal shrub species. The entire beach and coast is remote with limited public access.</u>
<u>Additional Comments</u>	
<u>Full sequencing of dune system is interrupted by adjoining land use of farming. Areas not farmed are largely associated with highly dynamic coastal processes.</u>	
<u>Public access is gained off the access road near the Ruapuke Motor Camp.</u>	

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<u>Aotea Coastal Area</u>	
<u>Overall Natural Character Rating: High</u>	
<u>Overview:</u>	<p>This Coastal Terrestrial Area encompasses the land associated with both the predominantly sheltered harbours of Aotea and Kaawhia. These two prominent inlets retain very different characteristics. Aotea Harbour features the Aotea dune fields, which are considered a <u>geopreservation site of national importance</u>.</p> <p><u>Key coastal characteristics include: Impressive dunelands associated with the northern mouth of Aotea Harbour; highly indented Coastal Terrestrial Area, especially around Kaawhia Harbour, land predominantly used for pastoral land use. However, significant tracts of indigenous areas are apparent with the settlement of Aotea and its limited access, which provides a relatively sheltered coastal experience. Beyond the coastal environment is the rural undulating hinterland of Waikato, where numerous small roads connect the many farmsteads. Some 18km to the east of both harbours is the indigenous vegetated extinct volcano of Pirongia, which clearly punctuates the Waikato rural landscape.</u></p>
<u>Abiotic (High)</u>	<p><u>The principal feature of this Coastal Terrestrial Area is the Aotea Harbour which is a drowned valley system following post glacial Aranuian sea level rise, and has also been influenced by numerous faults. Much of the sands contain a high iron content with a number of geopreservation sites associated with this area.</u></p> <p><u>The principal site in Aotea Harbour is the dune fields at the northern mouth. This impressive, nationally significant and well-defined landform of mobile sands is the largest example on the northwest coast</u></p>
<u>Biotic (Moderate to High)</u>	<p><u>Land cover analysis: The total land area of the Aotea and Kaawhia Coastal Terrestrial Area is 16,462ha. Almost 50% of the land cover is rural production land with a further 10% being plantation forestry. Indigenous vegetation forms nearly 32% of the cover, principally comprised of forest and manuka/kanuka scrub, with small areas of wetland and estuarine vegetation. Of the remainder, 5% is estuarine open water, lake/pond, and sand/gravel. Gorse/broom covers 2% and there are also very small areas (<1%) of iron sand mine, urban area/park and cropland.</u></p> <p><u>Like Whaingaroa Harbour, the Aotea Harbour landform is relatively stable and subject to long term processes of fluvial erosion and harbour sedimentation. The exception is the dynamic harbour mouths and associated dunelands.</u></p> <p><u>The area around Aotea Harbour has a substantial cover of regenerating indigenous forest down to the harbour margins. Many of the Aotea Harbour indigenous forests provide complete vegetation sequences from harbour fringe rushlands/sea meadows to coastal and lowland forest. Waikato Regional Council identifies seven areas of regenerating forest and indigenous scrubland areas around Aotea Harbour as key ecological sites covering some 930ha.</u></p> <p><u>The vast majority of streams discharging to the harbours are first- and second-order perennial streams. Some streams appear to have been fenced from livestock and allowed to regenerate with dense raupo wetlands. However, although most streams appear to be unfenced, many have extensive wetlands along much of their downstream reaches indicating that water levels are high enough to preclude stock grazing and wetland vegetation is permanent. Some of these also have forested or gorse covered headwaters and may have relatively high ecological values.</u></p> <p><u>Like Whaingaroa, Aotea Harbour provides abundant and varied intertidal and subtidal habitat for saltwater fish, offering food resources and nurseries, conduits for migratory freshwater fish, and habitat for a multitude of exotic and indigenous waterfowl, marshbirds, and shore</u></p>

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	<u>birds using the various mudflat, sandflat, saltmarsh and wetland habitats for feeding and breeding.</u>
<u>Experiential (Moderate to High)</u>	<p><u>The northern Aotea Harbour mouth is highly expressive of the natural dune processes of the west coast. The sequencing of dunes, to saltmarsh to native coastal bush cover provides a strong sense of naturalness.</u></p> <p><u>The southern harbour mouth is modified with coastal reclamation, residential subdivision and structures. Human modification is apparent around the settlement of Aotea along with the productive forestry of the coastal margins between Aotea and Kaawhia Harbours.</u></p> <p><u>Land use modification occurs most frequently at the southern extent of Aotea Harbour, outside the District boundary. Some areas with headlands and native bush cover are expressive of the natural processes and patterns. Parts of the coastal terrestrial area provide high levels of perceived naturalness whilst other areas are low to moderate. Low to moderate perceived naturalness is attributed to areas of pasture, human settlement and infrastructure including roading.</u></p>
Aotea Specific Characteristics – Identified Areas at Level 4	
<u>Oioroa</u>	
<u>Rating</u>	Very High
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>The largest sand dune headland of its type on the west coast it is highly reflective of the coastal processes. The extensive sand dunes extend from open coast to inner harbour. Vegetation sequencing is a good example of coastal dune, shrub to estuarine species. The area is extremely remote with no public access possible. The coastal experience is dominated by the coastal processes including continued dune movement.</u>
<u>Additional Comments</u>	
<u>Modification is extremely limited with historical Maaori use of the land.</u>	
<u>Tauranga Bush, Te Pahi Point, Pirau Bush</u>	
<u>Rating</u>	Very High
<u>Key Values</u>	<u>Successional native bush vegetation dominating large headland and inner harbour margins with sequencing beyond the coastal environment line. The coastal margins include coastal wetland systems (Te Pahi Point) which reflect the natural processes occurring within them. The areas are remote with little evidence of human presence or modification within them.</u>
<u>Additional Comments</u>	
<u>Modification is apparent on the margins of the bush areas where they interface with agricultural land use.</u>	

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Outstanding Natural Character Area

Margins of Aotea Harbour Outstanding Natural Character - Identified Areas at Level 4	
CTA and rating (Level 3)	Aotea Harbour Margins (Very High).
CMA and rating (Level 3)	Aotea Harbour (Very High) - Waikato Regional Council
Values	
Abiotic	<p>Dramatic and highly dynamic large active dune system at the harbour mouth. Considered a geopreservation site the abiotic processes are an excellent example of the unmodified coastal processes of the west coast.</p> <p>The shallow harbour and its intertidal zone remain largely unmodified except for the margins of the residential settlement. The fluvial processes remain largely unmodified excluding some culverts at the southern edges of the harbour where vehicle access is provided for. The remainder of the harbour retains the natural estuarine and wetland features which contribute to the movement of water into and out of the harbour.</p>
Biotic	<p>Some 930ha of regenerating forest and indigenous scrubland borders the harbour, with seven ecological sites registered by Waikato Regional Council.</p> <p>Oioroa sand dunes provides an excellent example of native vegetation sequencing from dune to coastal shrubland to estuarine vegetation. This is a key ecological site.</p> <p>Rauiri Head dune scrubland is also a registered ecological site.</p> <p>Large areas of the harbour margin are heavily vegetated with native bush cover transitioning to estuarine vegetation and wetlands upstream. The natural patterns and their connectedness highlight the natural landform and microclimate present in each area of the harbour.</p>
Experiential	<p>High perceived naturalness values due to limited modification.</p> <p>High experiential values associated with the interpretation of the dominant abiotic and biotic processes occurring within the harbour and on its margins. The experience of the 'entire dune process' from coast to inner harbour is memorable and recognised as completely natural and unmodified.</p> <p>The lack of access and in turn remoteness is apparent in the mid to northern parts of the area.</p> <p>The lack of human modification within the identified area is a significant part of the experience of the naturalness of the area.</p>
Mapped extent	
The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character Area is defined by the following: Terrestrially, this covers Potahi Point dunes including large areas of native bush cover and excludes smaller pockets of narrow native bush along the harbour margin.	
Margins of Aotea Harbour Rating	Outstanding