



Waikato District Council District Plan Review

Urban Environment Objectives and Policies

SNA's

Landscape and Natural Character

Notable Trees

Heritage Items

13 June 2018

Urban Environment Objectives and Policies

Matters Included

- Design guidelines in the strategic direction policy
- Made minor word updates as per suggestions
- Included reference to alternative modes of transport
- More flexibility for outdoor living courts for multi unit development and retirement villages
- Removed references to the number stories for Residential development

Urban Environment Objectives and Policies

Matters Not Included

- Referencing the Town Centre Character Statements in the strategic direction and Town specific policies.
- Specific Policies for Affordable Housing
- Specific Policies for Tiny Houses (provided for in proposed rules)
- Specific Policies for compostable toilets (provided for in Infrastructure chapter)

Land owner Engagement:

Significant Natural Areas

Overview

- Background
- Issues
- SNA identification
- Land owner engagement 2015/6
- Landowner Engagement 2018



Issues

Key threats to indigenous biodiversity in the Waikato District include:

- Pest, plants and animals
- Grazing stock
- Habitat modification (e.g. land drainage, vegetation clearance)
- Climate change

Wholesale clearance a thing of the past

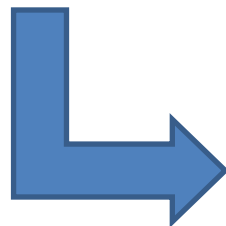
What are SNAs?

- Gullies
 - Wetlands
 - Coastal vegetation
 - Small pockets of bush in lowland areas
 - Larger pockets of bush on steep terrain
 - Manuka and kanuka
-
- On both public and private land

SNA - How have they been identified?

Aerial images, vegetation mapping and available ecological reporting

SNA



Ecological Assessment
Land Owner feedback



Engagement (2015-2016)

Of the 4,300+ letters sent out:

- Met with over 270 land owners
- Over 450 phone discussions
- Over 380 feedback forms received
- Meetings with iwi reference group

Input and Support from Federated Farmers, WRC, QEII and Waikato Biodiversity Forum.

November 2017



***Significant Natural Areas
of the Waikato District:
Terrestrial and Wetland
Ecosystems***



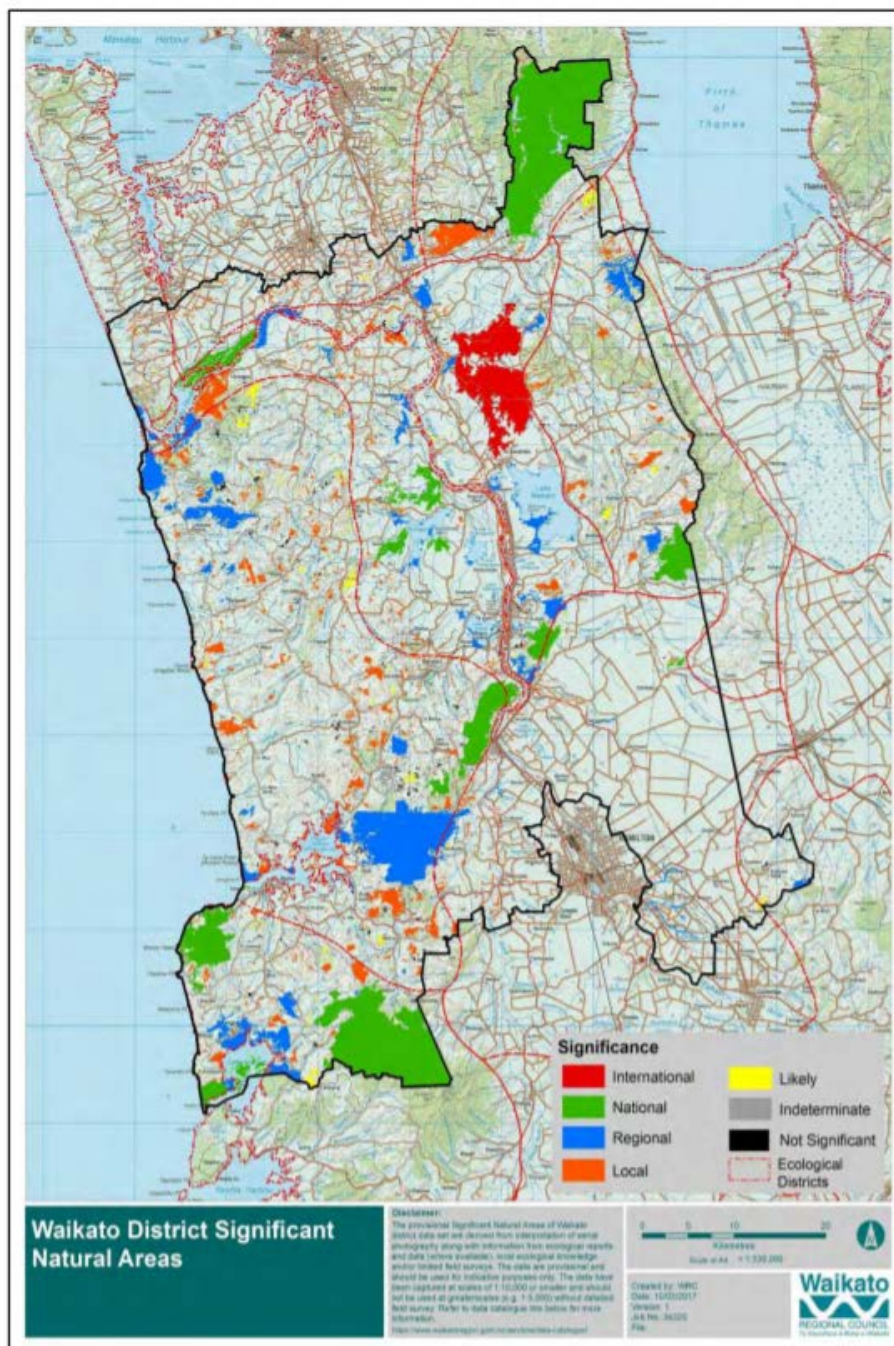
The numbers

Table 10. Summary, in total number and area (ha), of sites of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems assessed for significance in the Waikato District.

Significance Level	Number of Sites	Area (ha)	% of total SNA area assessed
International	2	6,269	8.0
National	20	32,166	41.2
Regional	87	18,396	23.6
Local	589	14,480	18.6
Subtotal for significant sites	698	71,312	91.4
Likely	127	1,761	2.3
Indeterminate	348	3,088	4.0
Not significant	426	1,839	2.4
TOTAL	1599	78,000	100



Over 3,800 properties



Engagement (10 May to 5 June 2018) -

- Met with over 300 land owners during 3 open days
- Written feedback: 100
- Approximately:
 - 108 phone discussions
 - 15 rates relief related questions
 - 16 financial assistance questions for restoration
 - 19 “property rights”
 - 17 objections
- Request for a public meeting

Feedback summary

- Suggested changes to mapping provided
- Questions about potential rules
- Where can I get assistance to fence areas off?
- Property rights –
 - How can council tell me what to do with my land!
 - If you want my land buy it!
- Interest in retaining areas and often enhancing
- Conversations were a great point to let people know where they can get assistance (WDC & WRC)
- I didn't know about it when I bought my land.

Draft Provisions – Regulatory

- Refined objectives and policies
- Refined Indigenous vegetation clearance rules
e.g. rural zone
 - Within SNAs – more restrictive
 - Also outside SNAs clearance rules – less restrictive in regards to manuka and kanuka
- Rural Zone subdivision incentives when protecting SNAs.

Proposed change from draft SNA clearance rule

- Draft plan did not provide for small amounts of clearance of manuka and kanuka

Proposed change:

- Outside of coastal areas to provide for up to 5m² of manuka and/or kanuka clearance for domestic firewood purposes or arts and crafts.

Incentives (non-regulatory)

- To assist with protection and enhancement:
 - Conservation Fund - \$30,000 per annum for enhancing protected areas, wetlands and other high value areas (e.g. SNAs)
 - Support of Waikato Biodiversity forum
 - Council led restoration projects

Conclusion

- SNAs - Land owner feedback has helped to improve baseline data
- A range of threats to indigenous biodiversity – WDC can't 'control' them all
- Vegetation clearance rules and subdivision incentives
- Protection and enhancement, largely down to good will of passionate land owners.
- Non-regulatory tools to promote restoration and enhancement.

Next Steps (TBC)

- Aprox. 120 desktop re-checks (Ecologist)
- Between 10 and 17 site visits (Ecologist and Council Staff)



- Updated dataset for notification

Landscape and Natural Character

- Identification re-cap and Engagement

Overview

- Issues
- Identification
- Engagement
- Next Steps

The Relationship Between Landscape and Natural Character

LANDSCAPE

Cumulative expression of **natural** and **cultural** features, patterns and processes in a geographical area, including human perceptions and associations. (NZILA Best Practice Note 2010)

BIOPHYSICAL

Abiotic

For example:
 - Geology
 - Hydrology
 - Landform
 - Soils
 - Climate

Biotic

For example:
 - Flora
 - Fauna
 - Habitats

SENSORY

Experiential

For example:
 - Wild
 - Scenic
 - Transient

Aesthetic

For example:
 - Coherence
 - Legibility
 - Vividness

ASSOCIATIVE

Cultural / Social

For example:
 - Cultural Heritage
 - Historic Heritage
 - Shared and Recognised

NATURAL CHARACTER

Indigenous Naturalness

Perceived Naturalness

Natural Character is the expression of natural elements, patterns and processes in a landscape.

(NZILA Best Practice Note 2010)

"A measure of naturalness on a spectrum of human modification"

Waikato District Landscape Study

- Baseline information - previous study, RPS, Regional Council study on Natural Character
- Confirmed:
 - 12 ONFs
 - 3 ONLs
 - 15 Significant Amenity Landscapes
- High (15), Very High (1) and Outstanding Natural Character Areas (1)

Features and Landscapes-

- See hand out

Natural Character

- See hand out

Draft Provisions

- Outstanding Natural Features, Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Natural Character areas
 - Building height limited to 5m
 - Consents required for new buildings
 - Consents required for new infrastructure projects

- Second tier landscapes

River landscapes, margins of some lakes and foothills (SALs) – permitted limits on building height and earthworks

Engagement (10 May to 5 June)

- 1700 letters (often received SNA letter too)
- Feedback
 - Aprox. 60 phone calls
 - 20 written feedback
 - Aprox. 50 people with landscape queries at drop in days

Engagement (10 May to 5 June)

- Feedback
 - What will regulation be
 - River banks and edges - areas often not easy to develop
 - Request for meetings with particular communities (Rataroa Hills (Esk road, Rataroa road etc))
 - Match to SNA

Next Steps

- Mapping often linked to ecological values so mapping updates where a related SNA is updated
- Land owner notification letter

Notable Trees



Notable Trees have been reassessed and the data base updated by Wakelin Associated in collaboration with WDC Arborist.

Approximately 17 new trees identified



Consultation

- Letters sent advising of the Trees listing
- Drop in session held
- Only negative feedback was in relation to a tree located on High Street in Pokeno.



Heritage

- Identification re-cap and Engagement

Story so Far

- Dr Anne McEwan review current schedule and as well identified 66 new listings (see hand out).
- Consultation was undertaken with the private owners; first by phone to advise of a letter they will be receiving in regard to their building, then by an open day to meet with staff and our technical expert
- Feedback received by phone gave indication of certain owners who had some resistance to the listing.

Profile of the 66 New Properties

- Twelve owned by Waikato District Council
- Three owned by the Ministry of Education
- Eight by various Church denominations
- Seven by Potatau Te Wherowhero (General Title-Tainui- Hopu Hopu)
- One on the Turangawaewae Marae(inculdes 2 buildings)
- One owned by Chorus
- 34 are privately owned

Results

	Responses
Yes	5
Not opposed	20
No Response	9
No Comment	7
No Contact	3
MOE	4
Cert of Compliance	2
LUC	1
Iwi	8
No	6
No-Pending community consultation	1
TOTAL	66

WDC Owned Buildings

- There are a multitude of buildings that have been identified as having heritage values for your consideration.
- Please see hand out

	New Building	Ranking
1	Tuakau Plunket Rooms	A Ranking
2	Former Whangarata School & World War 1 Memorial/Whangarata Community Centre	A Ranking
3	Tuakau Bridge	A Ranking
4	Former Onewhero Post office & Postmaster's Residence	B Ranking
5	Rangiriri Maori War and Early Settlers Cemetery Arch & Boundary Wall	A Ranking
6	Ngaruawahia Centennial Memorial	B Ranking
7	Ngaruawahia Centennial Memorial Plunket Rooms & Women's rest rooms	B Ranking
8	Waikato War Soldiers' Memorial and Cemetery	A Ranking
9	First Raglan Wharf/Old Raglan Wharf	A Ranking
10	Cottage (also site of Putoetoe Redoubt	B Ranking
11	Huntly War Memorial Hall/ Huntly Memorial Community Centre	B Ranking
12	Taupiri War memorial Hall & Plunket Rooms	B Ranking
13	Bins Road Former Kariaoitahi School (not sure if we own the building but we own the land)	A Ranking

Seeking Direction

- Feedback from consultation has identified 3 buildings that are of particular interest;
 - Lavalla College –does not support the registration
 - Taupiri PO- does not support the registration
 - Rimu House Huntly (Kosoof)-Does not support the registration

Seeking Direction

- Ellery Street property (Former Cavanagh residence)
- Glen Massey Boarding House (Listed)

Lavalla



Taupiri PO



Rimu House



Ellery Street -Cavanagh



Glen Massey Boarding House



Waikato Tainui Buildings

- There have been buildings recommended for listing that belong to Waikato Tainui;
 - Buildings at Hopu Hopu
 - Two Buildings on the Turangawaewae Marae (under one assessment).

We are currently consulting with Waikato Tainui in regard to these buildings.

Thank you for your time