

Havelock Precinct – Draft Qualifying Matters and Controls

Purpose and Statutory Context

The purpose of this document is to outline Waikato District Council's (WDC) draft qualifying matters and controls for the Havelock Precinct (excluding infrastructure and stormwater). The circulation of these provisions was directed by the Independent Hearing Panel (IHP) on 3 March 2023.

The purpose of the draft provisions is to provide a starting point for discussions with interested and affected parties in relation to the outcomes for the Havelock Precinct. While these provisions and qualifying matters have partially been identified and developed through discussions with the primary landowner, we seek further input into the application of the provisions as part of the expert conferencing and hearing process for Variation 3.

We recognise that there are numerous Environment Court appeals against the WDC's decision on the PDP in relation to the Havelock Precinct. The outcome of some of the appeals may affect the ultimate application of the MDRS within the Havelock Precinct (in whole or in part). The appeals process will continue in parallel with the Variation 3 process with the best endeavours made by WDC to align outcomes where possible.

Background

In response to the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021, WDC notified Variation 3 to the Proposed District Plan (PDP) to incorporate the Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) and give effect to Policy 3 of the National Policy Statement – Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD).

Variation 3 was notified on 19 September 2022 and included an urban fringe qualifying matter which limited the geographic application of the MDRS to within the walkable catchments of Pookeno, Tuakau, Huntly and Ngaaruawaahia. Submissions were received both in support of, and against, the urban fringe qualifying matter. In addition, some submitters also questioned its legality as a qualifying matter under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

On 3 March 2023, the IHP directed any submitters with an interest in the urban fringe qualifying matter to provide evidence and legal submissions to support their position for the IHP's consideration. On 14 March 2023 the IHP issued interim guidance and concluded that the urban fringe is not a qualifying matter under section 771(j) as it does not appear to satisfy the requirements of section 77L of the RMA¹.

The removal of the urban fringe qualifying matter would extend the application of the MDRS to all land zoned General residential or Medium density residential within Pookeno, Tuakau, Huntly and Ngaaruawaahia (at a minimum). The removal of the urban fringe qualifying matter therefore requires that the MDRS be applied to all the land zoned General residential within the Havelock Precinct with qualifying matters applied to areas within the precinct where higher density outcomes are inappropriate.

¹ The interim guidance is not binding on submitters, Council or on the IHP.

Havelock Precinct Context

Figure 1 below shows the approximate extent of the land zoned General residential within the context of the Havelock Precinct where the MDRS will need to be applied.

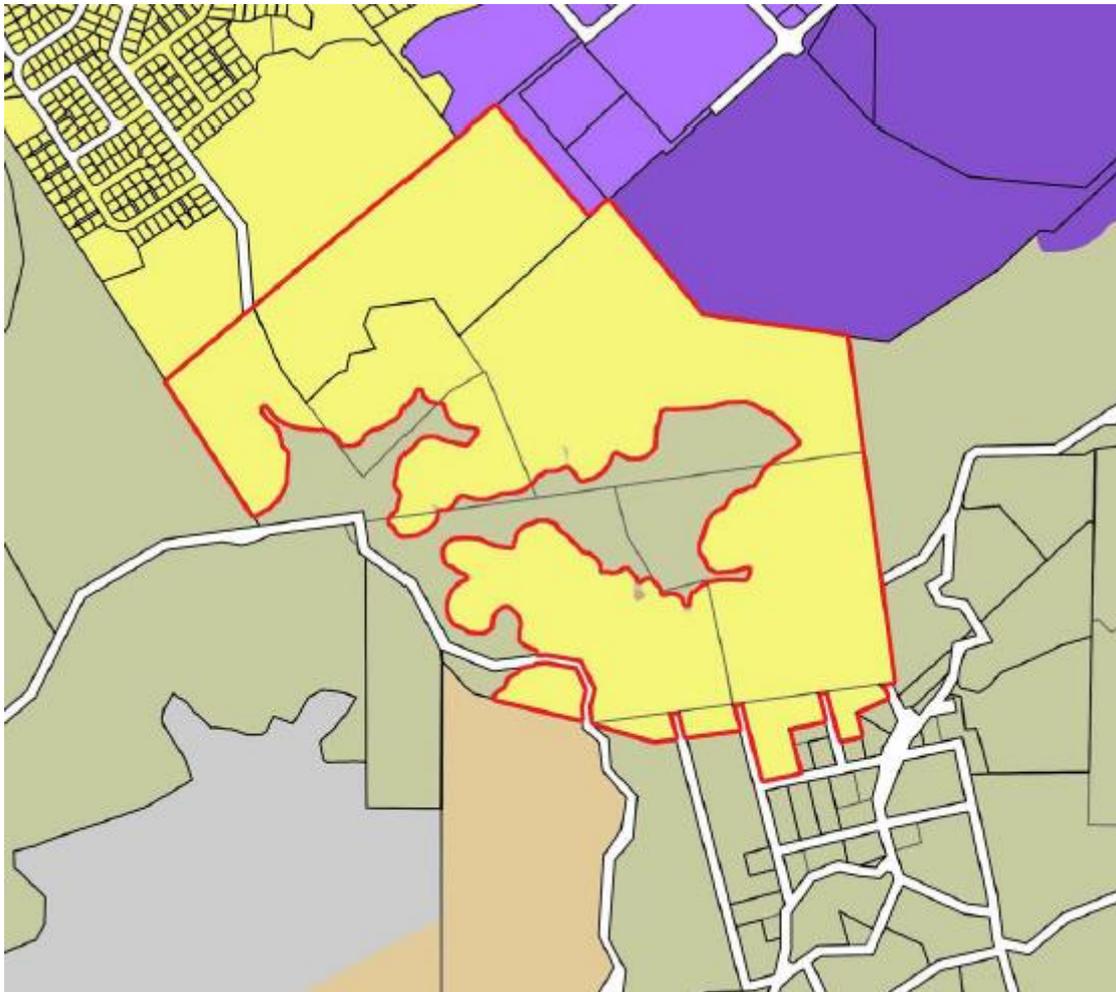


Figure 1: Approximate extent of the General residential zone within the Havelock Precinct

The wider Havelock Precinct encompasses land zoned General rural, General Industrial and Rural lifestyle. The MDRS is not proposed to be applied within these zones as they are not identified as relevant residential zones under the RMA.

The Havelock Precinct was partially zoned General residential through the district plan review process, the decision of which was notified on 17 January 2022. The decision on the PDP proposed that a range of other provisions were concurrently applied to the Havelock precinct to control development outcomes and manage a range of actual and potential effects on the environment. These provisions (applying within the General residential zone part of the precinct) include:

- The Havelock industry buffer which restricts the development of sensitive land uses within the buffer.
- Havelock 40dB L_{Aeq} noise contour and associated standards that impose building design requirements for sensitive land uses within the contour.
- Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) to protect and enhance the indigenous biodiversity within the identified SNAs.

- Height restrictions on sites adjoining Hilltop parks
- Subdivision controls including a minimum net lot size of 2,500 square metres within the Slope Residential Area
- Environmental Protection Areas (EPAs)

The above provisions (existing within the PDP) combined with an assessment of decision Report 28I (Zoning- Pokeno) and evidence provided at the PDP hearing in relation to the Havelock Precinct have been used to identify the proposed provisions and qualifying matters for the precinct which are outlined in the following section.

Draft Provisions and Draft Qualifying Matters

It is proposed to rezone the General residential zone within the Havelock Precinct to Medium Density Residential Zone 2 (MRZ2). The provisions of MRZ2 as notified can be found here: [link to Variation 3 MRZ2 provisions](#). MRZ2 is a new zone introduced through Variation 3 which incorporates the MDRS. Any relevant District Wide Matters outlined in Part 2 of the PDP will continue to apply to the precinct.

We recognise that there are certain attributes and characteristics within the Havelock Precinct and the wider area that make higher density as provided for by the MDRS inappropriate. Some of these attributes and characteristics are proposed to be provided for and protected through qualifying matters, while others (such as wetlands and native vegetation) will be provided for through the existing district wide matters in the PDP. The qualifying matters identified for the Havelock Precinct include:

- Relationship of Maaori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga – in relation to the protection of landscapes with high cultural values. This qualifying matter falls under 77I(a) of the RMA as a matter of national importance.
- Slope stability – in relation to managing significant risks from natural hazards. This qualifying matter falls under 77I(a) of the RMA as a matter of national importance.
- Reverse sensitivity – in relation to the importance of avoiding potential reverse sensitivity effects of residential activities on industrial operations. This qualifying matter falls under 77I(j) of the RMA as ‘any other matter’ and is an existing qualifying matter proposed through Variation 3.

Note: potential qualifying matters to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River (including infrastructure and stormwater) are still under consideration. Updated information will be circulated to all submitters in future as directed by the IHP on 3 March 2023. We further note that other qualifying matters may be identified and applied as part of the expert conferencing and hearings processes.

Table I outlines how the above draft qualifying matters would vary the MDRS provisions of the MRZ2 (noting that some PDP appeals may further amend the application of these provisions)

Variation 3 provisions Standards

Table 1: Effects of Qualifying Matters on MDRS Standards in Havelock Precinct

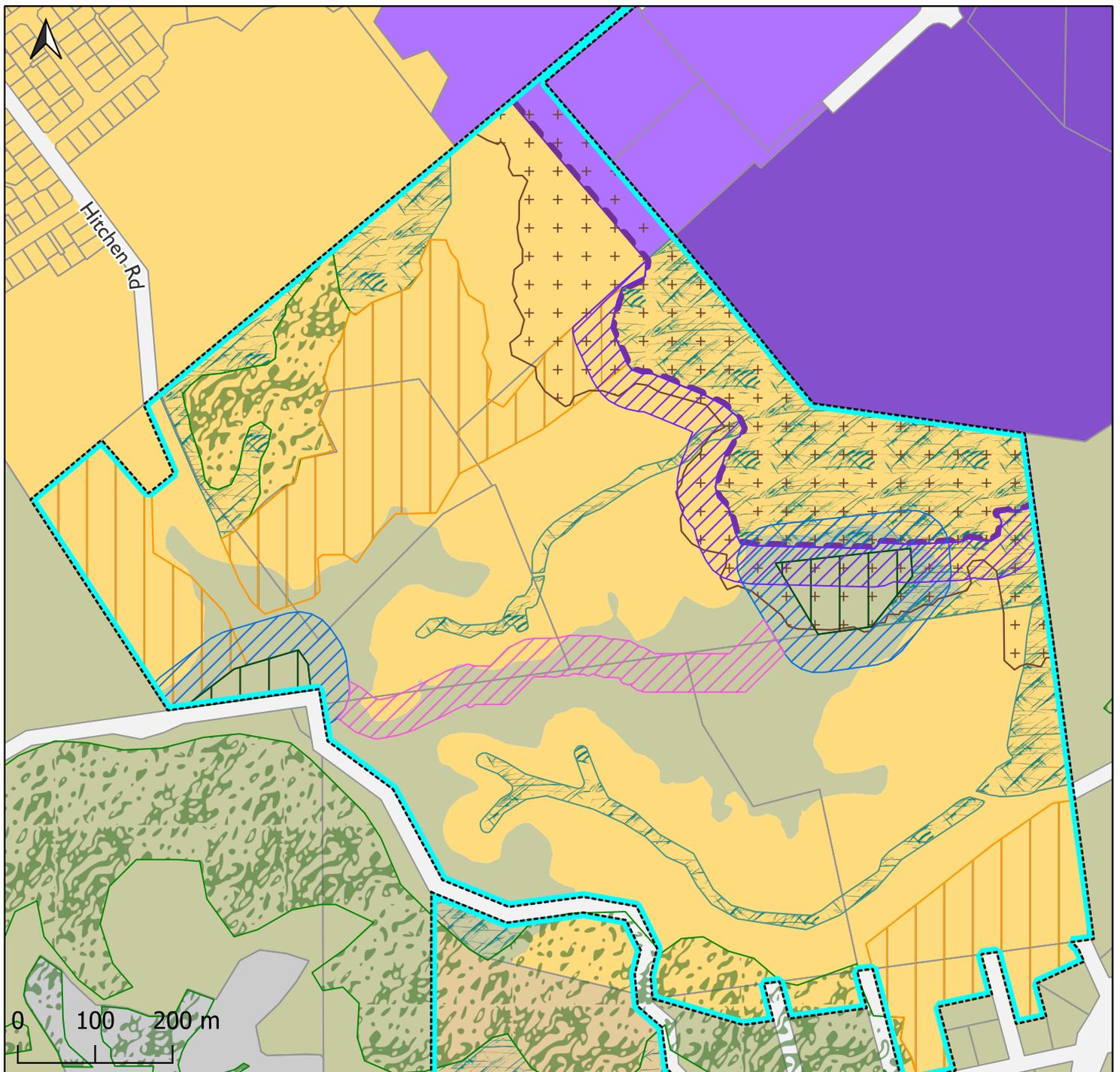
| MRZ2 Provision | Requirement | Variation required? | Qualifying Matter/s |
|--|--|---|--|
| Number of residential units per site (MRZ2-S1) | Three residential units per site | Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of residential units per site will be restricted to one residential unit per site within the Slope Residential Area. Three residential units per site will be permitted in all other parts of the Havelock Precinct. | Slope stability |
| Building height (MRZ2-S2) | 11 metres | Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Height is restricted to 5m within: 50m of the boundary of a hilltop park (Transmission Hill and Potters Hill). - Height is restricted to 5m within 50m of the Havelock Industry Buffer Height Restriction Area. - Height is restricted to 8m within the 40dB L_{Aeq} noise contour area (outside the Pokeno Industry Buffer Zone) <p>Heights of up to 11m will be permitted in all other parts of the Havelock Precinct (subject to no other qualifying matters or district wide provisions applying).</p> | Cultural landscape Reverse sensitivity Reverse sensitivity |
| Building coverage (MRZ2-S5) | 50% | Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building coverage within the Slope Residential Area must not exceed 40% of the net site area. | Slope stability |
| Building setback – sensitive land use (MRZ2-S14) | This rule stipulates setback requirements for sensitive land uses to a number of sites/infrastructure. | Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This rule will be amended to avoid sensitive land uses (new buildings or alterations to existing buildings) within the Havelock Industry Buffer (providing for it as a non-complying activity). | Reverse sensitivity |
| Subdivision (SUB-R153) | Minimum lot size of 200 square metres. | Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The minimum lot size within the Slope Residential Area is required to be at least 2,500 square metres. <p>The minimum vacant lot size for all other areas within the Havelock Precinct is 200 square metres.</p> | Slope stability |

Appendix I shows how and where the identified draft qualifying matters would apply within the Havelock Precinct.

In addition to the provisions outlined above, there are other provisions relating to the Havelock Precinct that do not affect density outcomes per se and will continue to apply. An example of such a provision is SUB-R21 which requires specific standards for subdivision including the requirement to create road reserves, Hilltop Parks and the construction of an acoustic barrier. We also understand that there may be additional provisions proposed as part of the appeals process negotiations. While these provisions cannot affect density outcomes without a qualifying matter, they can control development outcomes such as building reflectivity and the requirement for mechanical ventilation.

Waikato District Council
24 April 2023

Appendix I – Draft Havelock Village Precinct Plan



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Havelock Precinct |  Environmental protection area |
|  Havelock ridgeline height restriction area | Zones |
|  Havelock hilltop park height restriction area |  GRUZ – General rural zone |
|  Havelock industry buffer height restriction area |  RLZ – Rural lifestyle zone |
|  Havelock hilltop park |  MRZ2 - Medium density residential zone 2 |
|  Havelock industry buffer |  HIZ – Heavy industrial zone |
|  Havelock slope residential area |  GIZ – General industrial zone |
|  Havelock 40 dB LAeq noise contour |  Road |
|  Significant Natural Area |  TTZ - TaTa Valley zone |
| |  Parcel boundary |

Note: Zone and precinct are subject to PDP appeals and may change