

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

3. Natural Features and Values

As a nation, it is the natural environment and the people that provides an identity. The kiwi, the silver fern, the koru – national icons representative of New Zealand's unique natural environment.

For the Horowhenua community as a whole, its identity is based on a strong sense of place and a unique relationship with its physical features. The Tararua Ranges to the east and the coastal environment to the west have created many opportunities for recreation, education and scientific study. The fertile river plains and terraces of the Manawatu and Ohau Rivers have created the environmental conditions required for successful horticulture and dairy farming. The Tararua Ranges, the Powelliphanta snail, the Manawatu Estuary, Lakes Horowhenua and Papaitonga, world-renowned coastal dunefields all form part of the District's unique identity.

To Tangata Whenua it is specifically the natural environment that provides an identity. It is turangawaewae – a standing place, where the role of kaitiaki is to preserve the spirit of the land. The natural environment is the creator, providing physical and spiritual nourishment.

Every person has a hand in nurturing and deteriorating the natural environment. The way the community operates within and uses the natural resources has, and will continue to have, a bearing on the sustainability of resources. In order to continue the use and enjoyment of the natural environment, a commitment must be made towards sustainably managing it. As part of this commitment the role of Tangata Whenua will be welcomed in an effort to sustain the spiritual attachment and cultural diversity of the environment. The aim of this policy is to provide for and encourage activity, which helps protect what is left, and, where attainable, to restore the previous natural environment, while continuing to provide for the community's economic, cultural and social well-being.

Issue 3.1 OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES AND DOMAINS WITH HIGH LANDSCAPE AMENITY

The risk that inappropriate subdivision, use and development will cause adverse effects to the outstanding natural features and landscapes of the District and domains with high landscape amenity that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

ISSUE DISCUSSION

The Horowhenua District is framed by the Tararua Ranges to the east and the open expansive duneland coast to the west. Within this are important estuaries, lakes and dune features. Rivers and streams flow from mountain to sea across the District.

The District Plan is required, as a matter of national importance, to provide for the protection of outstanding natural landscapes and features from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

The landscapes of the District have been assessed to bring the District Plan in line with the Regional Policy Statement part of the Proposed One Plan and to apply a consistent landscape evaluation methodology. The aim of this has been to robustly identify the outstanding natural features and landscapes of the District and also a second tier of landscapes that are of high amenity to the community.

The assessment has taken into account the landscape attributes associated with:

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

- Biophysical features, patterns and processes including:
 - Representativeness
 - Research and education
 - Rarity
 - Ecosystem functioning
- Sensory and perceptual qualities including:
 - Coherence
 - Vividness
 - Expressiveness
 - Transient values
- Spiritual, cultural and social associations including:
 - Recognised values
 - Tangata Whenua values
 - Historical association

The assessment has concluded that the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (ONFLs) of the District are as follows:

- The Tararua Ranges and including the Skyline of the Tararua Ranges
- Lake Horowhenua, Moutere Hill and the Hokio Stream
- Lake Papaitonga and the Waiwiri Stream
- The Manawatu River Estuary
- The Coast including the foredune and adjacent dunelands

In addition, further assessment has identified that the following landscape domains have a high level of landscape amenity.

- Hill Country
- Manakau Downlands
- Coastal Lakes
- Coastal Environment

Whilst these domains may include ONFLs, their wider environments also have high overall visual quality, vulnerability to change, distinguishing topography and high visibility. This is essentially a second tier of landscapes below the ONFLs.

Some activities that this District Plan is responsible for may not be appropriate in these landscapes where their specific location and design prevents them from adequately avoiding, remedying or mitigating their effects. Activities where these may be relevant include:

- Development facilitated by subdivision.
- Large buildings or inappropriately designed and sited buildings in each landscape type.
- Inappropriately sited structures such as transmission pylons, telecommunication towers and wind farm turbines.
- Earthworks for development and access.
- Removal of native vegetation.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

Policies and methods for the wider management of the coastal environment will be reviewed as part of the overall review of this District Plan. This will focus on achieving integration of policy relating to the natural character of the coast and the outstanding landscape values.

Objectives & Policies

Objective 3.1.1 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Domains with High Landscape Amenity

Ensure that the District's Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development and that regard is had to other landscapes having high amenity.

Policy 3.1.2

Protect the character and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by controlling the level and extent of activities including earthworks and the scale of buildings and network utilities.

Policy 3.1.3

Subdivision, use and development affecting domains with high landscape amenity shall be controlled to specified levels and enabled beyond this where undertaken in a manner that gives particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of the amenity values of that landscape.

Policy 3.1.4

Avoid the development of buildings where they will adversely affect the values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

Policy 3.1.5

Ensure that buildings within domains with high landscape amenity achieve low impact by having particular regard to the Horowhenua Rural Subdivision Design Guide.

Policy 3.1.6

Have regard to any positive effects associated with landscape and biodiversity restoration.

Policy 3.1.7

Have regard to the ability of existing landscapes to absorb appropriate subdivision, use and development, which includes existing land uses, and also topography and vegetation.

Policy 3.1.8

Have regard to the potential adverse effects on the landscape values of an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape from development on a nearby landscape with high amenity.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

Policy 3.1.9

Ensure that any adverse effects on significant dune landforms are avoided, remedied or mitigated having regard to the needs of primary production activities.

Policy 3.1.10

Recognise the benefits of flood control, erosion control and drainage activities undertaken by or on behalf of the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council within the Manawatu River Estuary, Coastal and Lake Horowhenua Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

Explanation and Principal Reasons:

The above policies seek to ensure the protection of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes whilst enabling high quality development within domains with high landscape amenity. The policies recognise that there is potential for rehabilitation of landscapes and improvements to biodiversity, which may include offsetting, as part of any proposal or as part of mitigation of effects. Similarly, the characters of the landscapes vary in terms of their ability to absorb change without adverse effects. For example some existing coastal forestry areas close to existing settlements may have potential for other more sensitive land uses.

Further policy review will be undertaken on the coastal landscapes as part of the District Plan review.

Methods for Issue 3.1 & Objective 3.1.1

District Plan

- Control subdivision, use and development in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and domains with high amenity landscapes and implement the District Plan policies through consent processes.
- Promote high quality design and development through the application of the Rural Subdivision Design Guide. (Note: the Design Guide is not intended to capture infrastructure which is not associated with a subdivision.)
- Further review policy on the Coastal ONFL to integrate with coastal management policy as part of the District Plan review.
- Undertake an expert assessment of dune formations in the coastal landscape including the Coastal Environment, Coastal Lakes and Foxton Dunefields domains to identify examples that justify protection from inappropriate activities.
- To consult landowners as part of that assessment and determine appropriate protection methods.

Issue 3.2 INDIGENOUS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Land use, subdivision and development can result in the damage and destruction of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna and the intrinsic values of ecosystems, including loss of indigenous biological diversity.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

ISSUE DISCUSSION

The Horowhenua has limited areas of original indigenous forest cover, wetlands and other indigenous habitats as a result of historical land development and management practices. The majority of the indigenous forest is found in the hill country and the ranges, with fragments scattered throughout the lower-lying and coastal areas of the District. The remaining natural habitats are small, fragmented and under pressure from pests and disturbance faced with a number of pressures. One of the main threats to indigenous biological diversity in the Horowhenua District is pests such as feral animals and invasive weeds. In addition to this, there are land use A number of activities that have the potential to adversely affect remaining areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna. Such activities and their effects include uncontrolled stock grazing that can damage indigenous forest understorey and limit regeneration, and the fragmentation of remnant indigenous forest and wetland areas through clearance for pasture and exotic forestry. Other threats include, feral animals, invasion of weeds and drainage.

The RMA requires district councils to recognise and provide for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. In addition, a function of district councils under the RMA is the control of any effects of the use, development, or protection of land, for the purpose of maintaining indigenous biological diversity.

Policy direction in the Horizons Regional Council's Proposed One Plan sets out local authority responsibilities for controlling land use activities for the purpose of managing indigenous biological diversity. This policy directs that the Regional Council take all responsibilities for the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity in developing objectives, policies and methods including rules. Territorial authorities are only responsible for retaining schedules of notable or amenity trees for recognition and identification purposes as opposed to protecting significant indigenous vegetation. Therefore, the District Plan does not contain provisions for maintaining indigenous biological diversity.

Notwithstanding the above, district councils still have an overarching responsibility in relation to Sections 6(c) and 7(d) of the RMA (i.e. protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna; and intrinsic values of ecosystems) when making decisions on resource consent applications. For example, in determining an application for a subdivision consent which contains or is adjacent to an area of significant indigenous vegetation, the District Council would need to recognise and provide for the protection of this area, and have particular regard to the intrinsic values of its ecosystems.

Objectives & Policies

Objective 3.2.1 Indigenous Biological Diversity

To protect the areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.

Policy 3.2.2

Manage the effects of subdivision, use and development to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects on areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna and the intrinsic values of ecosystems.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

Policy 3.2.3

Encourage subdivision, land use and development that maintains and enhances indigenous biological diversity through the protection and enhancement of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.

Explanation and Principal Reasons:

One of the key methods available to the Council is to manage any further loss or modification of remaining areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna through assessing the effects of use, subdivision and development at the time of resource consent application, with the ability to impose conditions to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects. This approach provides a process by which the biodiversity values of the area affected can be assessed, and methods identified to protect the habitats of value.

Encouraging landowners, subdividers and developers in understanding the values of the Horowhenua's indigenous biodiversity would assist in managing areas of indigenous habitats on their land to maintain and enhance this biodiversity.

Methods for Issue 3.2 & Objective 3.2.1

District Plan

- Through the resource consent process, assessment of environmental effects where an activity may adversely affect an area of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna. In assessing applications, consideration should be given to the criteria and matters in the Proposed One Plan (specifically Policies 12-5 and 12-6).
- Conditions on resource consents, including consent notices and covenants on Certificates of Title, to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of activities on an area of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna. In imposing any consent conditions, consideration should be given to the criteria and matters in the Proposed One Plan (specifically Policies 12-5 and 12-6).

Other Council Initiatives

- Working with other agencies, including Horizons Regional Council, provision of information and education on the value of the Horowhenua's indigenous biodiversity and areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, including the need to consider these values when planning an activity or development.

Regional Council

- Objectives, policies and rules in the Proposed One Plan relating to maintaining indigenous biological diversity and protecting areas of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna.
- Working in partnership with landowners and other parties to proactively maintain and enhance indigenous biological diversity.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

Issue 3.3 LAKES, RIVERS, WETLANDS AND OTHER WATER BODIES

Inappropriate subdivision, land use and development in, on, or adjacent to lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies, can adversely affect their natural character and other values such as ecological, recreation, cultural and amenity values

ISSUE DISCUSSION

The Horowhenua has numerous lakes, rivers and other water bodies of varying size and significance which are valued for a range of conservation, recreation, cultural, amenity and intrinsic reasons. In the context of this District Plan 'other water bodies' includes streams and tributaries, wetlands and dune lakes. Under Section 6 of the RMA, one of the matters of national importance is the preservation of the natural character of wetlands, lakes, and rivers, and wetlands and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate use, subdivision and development. Another matter of national importance provided for in the RMA is the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along lakes and rivers.

Responsibility for the management of activities in and adjacent to lakes, rivers, wetlands or streams other water bodies is a responsibility shared between the Horizons Regional Council and the Council. The Council is responsible for managing the effects arising from activities on the surface of these water bodies, as well as subdivision, development and use of the land along the margins of rivers, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies. The management of the water itself (taking, use, discharges), activities including land disturbance, vegetation clearance and cultivation on the margins of water bodies, as well as the beds of freshwater bodies, are managed by Horizons Regional Council.

Waipunahau (Lake Horowhenua) is the largest freshwater body in the District and is highly valued for its cultural, recreational, natural and amenity values. There are smaller dune lakes and wetlands scattered throughout the rural areas of the District. The Manawatu River is the largest river in the Horowhenua and its catchment includes extensive land area outside of the District. There are a number of other rivers and streams draining from the Tararua Ranges towards the Tasman Sea. In addition, there are other smaller streams and tributaries across the plains and coastal areas connected to these lakes and rivers.

Lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies have many values. They are natural drainage channels and systems. The water bodies and their edges provide habitats for both aquatic and terrestrial species. They also often function as ecological corridors along which animals move to other habitats. In addition, they form an integral component of the landscape. They are also important for recreational uses such as boating, fishing and swimming.

Water bodies also have important cultural values. For Tangata Whenua, waters are seen as the lifeblood of the land and therefore, of the people. Access to water and the management of water quality and ecological systems are important to Tangata Whenua for social, economic, spiritual and cultural reasons, including customary activities. The margins of water bodies are also where many wāhi tapu and other cultural heritage sites may be located.

Public access to and along water bodies is also a major issue, as limited access constrains the recreational values of freshwater environments. However, access must be provided in a form that does not adversely affect the conservation values, increase risk to natural hazards or any operational requirements of adjoining landowners, such as farming operations.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

Activities on land near water bodies can adversely affect the values of the water bodies if not properly managed. Over time, water bodies and their margins can deteriorate because of changes to land use in their catchments. As many water bodies throughout the District flow through farmland, there has been, and remains, potential for modification of the river-water body margin areas by unsustainable land use practices, vegetation clearance, or earthworks. In addition, the subdivision of land on the edges of river, lakes, wetlands and wetlands~~other water bodies~~ leads to intensified settlement that in turn can detrimentally affect the natural character of riparian areas and potential conflict with their recreational use (for example, wetlands used for hunting).

Fundamental to preserving the natural character of lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies is the need to protect the attributes that constitute natural character of Horowhenua's lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies and their amenity values – in particular, the potential loss of reasonable buffer areas along the edge of water bodies. Such buffers allow for vegetated strips, which are important for ecological purposes (fish habitats and reduction of water and silt runoff from pastures), as well as to maintain visual and landscape values. Such buffers can also provide for public access and natural hazard defence systems. The required depth of such buffers will vary widely – in urban areas, they need not be as extensive as they need to be in rural areas, particularly on the banks of major rivers, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies~~wetlands~~.

Objectives & Policies

Objective 3.3.1 Lakes, Rivers and Other Water Bodies

To protect the natural character of lakes, rivers and other water bodies and their margins, from inappropriate use, and development.

Policy 3.3.2

Identify priority lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies with high natural character and conservation, recreation, cultural, amenity and intrinsic values.

Policy 3.3.3

Manage the design, location and scale of subdivision and/or land development and use adjoining lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies so they retain their special values and natural character.

Policy 3.3.4

Ensure subdivision, use and development protects the natural character of lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies and maintain and enhance their special values by having regard to the following matters in assessing proposals:

- extent to which natural processes, elements and patterns that determine the area's natural character are sustained, and/or restored and rehabilitated;
- degree of change to landform and relief;
- degree of protection of vegetation cover and patterns, including use of a buffer;
- compatibility with existing level of modification to the environment;

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

- functional necessity to be located in or near the water body and no reasonably practicable alternative locations exist;
- ability to mitigate any potential adverse effects of subdivision, use, and development; and
- provision of public amenity and access to land acquired by Council for reserve purposes.

Policy 3.3.5

Ensure the adverse effects on the natural character and special values of lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies are avoided or mitigated through establishing setbacks for activities and buildings that may cause adverse effects.

Policy 3.3.6

Promote and encourage the development or maintenance of riparian planting along water body margins.

Policy 3.3.7

Enable customary activities to be undertaken within and adjacent to lakes, rivers and other water bodies.

Policy 3.3.8

Promote a strategic approach to the management of lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies and their margins and catchments, particularly by using management plans for areas with significant environmental issues that require a collaborative approach with other groups or organisations.

Policy 3.3.9

Provide for the maintenance of the natural character of lakes, rivers and other water bodies and their margins, whilst balancing the need to provide public access to and along these water bodies by way of an esplanade network.

Explanation and Principal Reasons:

Managing development, use and subdivision close to lakes, rivers and other water bodies will protect the natural character and special values of these water bodies, such as cultural, natural, recreation and amenity values. Buildings, structures and activities can adversely affect the natural character and special values of these areas. Other than flood protection works, bridges and small recreational structures, it is generally inappropriate to place structures within, and immediately adjoining, water bodies. However, some activities by their nature and function are required to be located in, and adjacent to water bodies, including structures for irrigation, water supply, or energy generation.

If buildings, structures and activities are not effectively managed, they may create environmental effects such as adverse visual impacts, excessive noise, and loss of public access to riparian areas. Actual and potential adverse effects of development are to be managed so the natural character of lakes and rivers is protected.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

An effective way to achieve protection of the natural character of water bodies is creating a buffer between waterways and adjoining activities, which could include the creation of an esplanade reserve or strip. In addition, when development, land use change or subdivision occurs, it provides an opportunity to consider the potential for restoration and enhancement of the natural values of the margins of waterways.

Council has prepared an Open Space Strategy which identifies water bodies with significant values where creating esplanade reserves or strips are considered a priority.

These priority water bodies are listed in Schedule 12-Priority Water Bodies. In terms of the application of this Schedule, there are provisions which provide for: separation distances between buildings and priority water bodies in the Rural Zone; the creation of esplanade reserves which relate to subdivisions adjacent to Group 1 Priority Water Bodies; and the creation of esplanade strips which relate to subdivisions adjacent to Group 2 Priority Water Bodies in Schedule 12.

The priority water bodies identified are where new connections allow for the creation of a natural buffer to protect the natural values of water bodies and their margins as well as providing for public access.

As land adjoining these priority water bodies is subdivided and developed, opportunities can arise for formal access to be obtained through the subdivision process. This systematic process allows a District-wide network to be developed over time and can result in the restoration and enhancement of water bodies and their margins.

While rivers, lakes and wetlands are susceptible to inappropriate activities that may adversely affect their natural character and special values, in general, provision for the cultural and recreational use and enjoyment of the water bodies should continue to be made, as such activities do not create significant environmental issues. Other tools outside the District Plan can be successfully used to separate or manage conflicting activities if required (for example, bylaws).

For water bodies with significant environmental issues, such as conflicting uses, or poor water quality and ecological functioning, a strategic approach is required. Working in collaboration with key agencies on the integrated use and management of the margins of freshwater bodies that have significant environmental issues is likely to be the most effective method for making improvements and progress for the long-term.

The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along rivers, lakes and wetlands is a matter of national importance. The Open Space and Access to Water Bodies (Chapter 4) policies aim to systematically increase opportunities for public access to and along the significant water bodies in the District. In providing for this public access, it is also important to ensure the natural character is protected.

Methods for Issue 3.3 & Objective 3.3.1

District Plan

- Identify the priority water bodies (coast, lakes, rivers and streams) with high natural character and significant values.
- Rules with setbacks from the banks of water bodies.
- Rules which require esplanade reserves or strips based on priority water bodies, with ability to reduce or waive the requirement where appropriate.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

- Rules which provide for esplanade reserve/strips and access strips to be created appropriate along other water bodies.
- Rules managing activities on the surface of water.
- Assessment of environmental effects through the resource consent process for development and subdivision proposals.
- Conditions on resource consents to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects of activities on the natural character, special values and public enjoyment of water bodies.

Other Methods

- Council will publicise the location of existing access ways through signage.
- Council will also cooperate with regional initiatives to promote improved riparian management practices.
- The use of collaboration, management plans or other approaches for achieving a strategic and coordinated approach to resolving significant environmental issues.
- Education and information on the environmental, cultural and recreational values associated with lakes, rivers and other water bodies.
- Co-operation with other organisations involved in the management of water bodies, including Horizons Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Fish and Game New Zealand.

Issue 3.4 NOTABLE TREES

The natural, amenity, heritage and cultural values of an area can be adversely affected by the loss of Notable Trees through intentional or inadvertent damage, destruction or improper maintenance.

ISSUE DISCUSSION

Trees form an important part of the community in terms of their heritage, aesthetic, botanical and ecological values. Individual trees and collective groups of trees can make a valuable contribution to local amenity and also add a sense of character and place to areas in the District. To ensure that trees of significance to the District are not damaged or lost, trees are to be evaluated and identified as Notable Trees, and improve peoples' awareness of their value in the wider community.

However, the protection of trees for public good reasons must be balanced by the right of private property owners to use their land and to be allowed to alleviate the adverse effects that trees may have on their property (e.g. damage to building foundations).

Objectives & Policies

Objective 3.4.1 Notable Trees

To recognise and protect Notable Trees which are of aesthetic, botanical, heritage or ecological significance within the District.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

Policy 3.4.2

Identify and protect Notable Trees in public and private ownership where the land owner agrees.

Policy 3.4.3

Ensure activities do not have adverse effects on the long term well-being of Notable Trees.

Policy 3.4.4

Undertake public awareness initiatives for Notable Trees on what makes a tree worthy of identification and protection, and support community initiatives for the protection and conservation of Notable Trees.

Policy 3.4.5

Encourage the use of non-regulatory incentives and assistance to support the protection and appropriate maintenance of Notable Trees.

Explanation and Principle Reasons

Notable Trees within the District are significant for aesthetic, botanical, heritage and ecological reasons. The Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) is used to assess and determine the Notable Trees in the District. Schedule 3 – Notable Trees, includes trees on both public and private land. The property owners consent will be required before trees are added to the Schedule of Notable Trees.

It is important to retain those trees of importance that exist in the District through identifying and scheduling Notable Trees. The removal of Notable Trees is not considered to be desirable for the amenity and quality of the environment.

It is important that development and other activities on public and private land do not adversely affect Notable Trees. Such development and activities include:

- detrimental trimming of the trees;
- removal of trees;
- location of buildings and works in close proximity to the trees; and
- significant changes to soil levels in close proximity to trees.

The inclusion of a Schedule of Notable Trees will result in greater public awareness and increased opportunities for the protection of such trees. By providing the criteria used for the assessment of Notable Trees, people can be better informed on what trees require protection and hold value to the wider community. The provision of information therefore can help to build understanding as to why such trees warrant protection and promote voluntary actions to protect Notable Trees.

There are costs associated with the maintenance and protection of Notable Trees. The provision of advice and financial assistance where feasible to support landowners with Notable Trees will maintain the health of the trees and support their long term protection and survival.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

Methods for Issue 3.4 & Objective 3.4.1

District Plan

- Identification of Notable Trees in a Schedule and on the Planning Maps to identify their location and values, using the STEM criteria.
- Provide guidance and information on the criteria and method of assessment for Notable Trees (Refer Schedule 3 – Notable Trees Appendix 1).
- Rules are provided in the District Plan to manage the effects of activities which have the potential to adversely affect Notable Trees.

Other Methods

- Consideration will be given to providing incentives for the maintenance and protection of Notable Trees. Allocation of funds may be available through the Long Term Plan for landowners wishing to permanently protect a Notable Tree.
- Council will carry out a reassessment of all trees that have been classified as Notable Trees every three years of the District Plan becoming operative.
- Council will review and maintain Schedule 3 - Notable Trees, making appropriate changes to the Schedule provided that:
 - the owner of the land by which the tree is located on is in agreement to the listing, and
 - the tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist based on the STEM criteria and method.

Notable Trees may be added to the District Plan through Plan Changes.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS:

The environmental results for natural features and values which are anticipated to result from the combined implementation of the above policies and methods are as follows:

- 3(a) Protection of Horowhenua's significant natural areas from the adverse effects of use, subdivision and development.
- 3(b) Maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity of the Horowhenua's indigenous flora and fauna, natural habitats and ecosystems.
- 3(c) A landscape which illustrates the community's uniqueness, spirit and dynamism.
- 3(d) Subdivision and development along the margins of lakes, rivers and other water bodies preserves the natural character and maintains and enhances their special values.
- 3(e) Greater public awareness of the importance and vulnerability of the Horowhenua's natural features and biodiversity values.

3 OBJECTIVES/POLICIES: Natural Features and Values

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