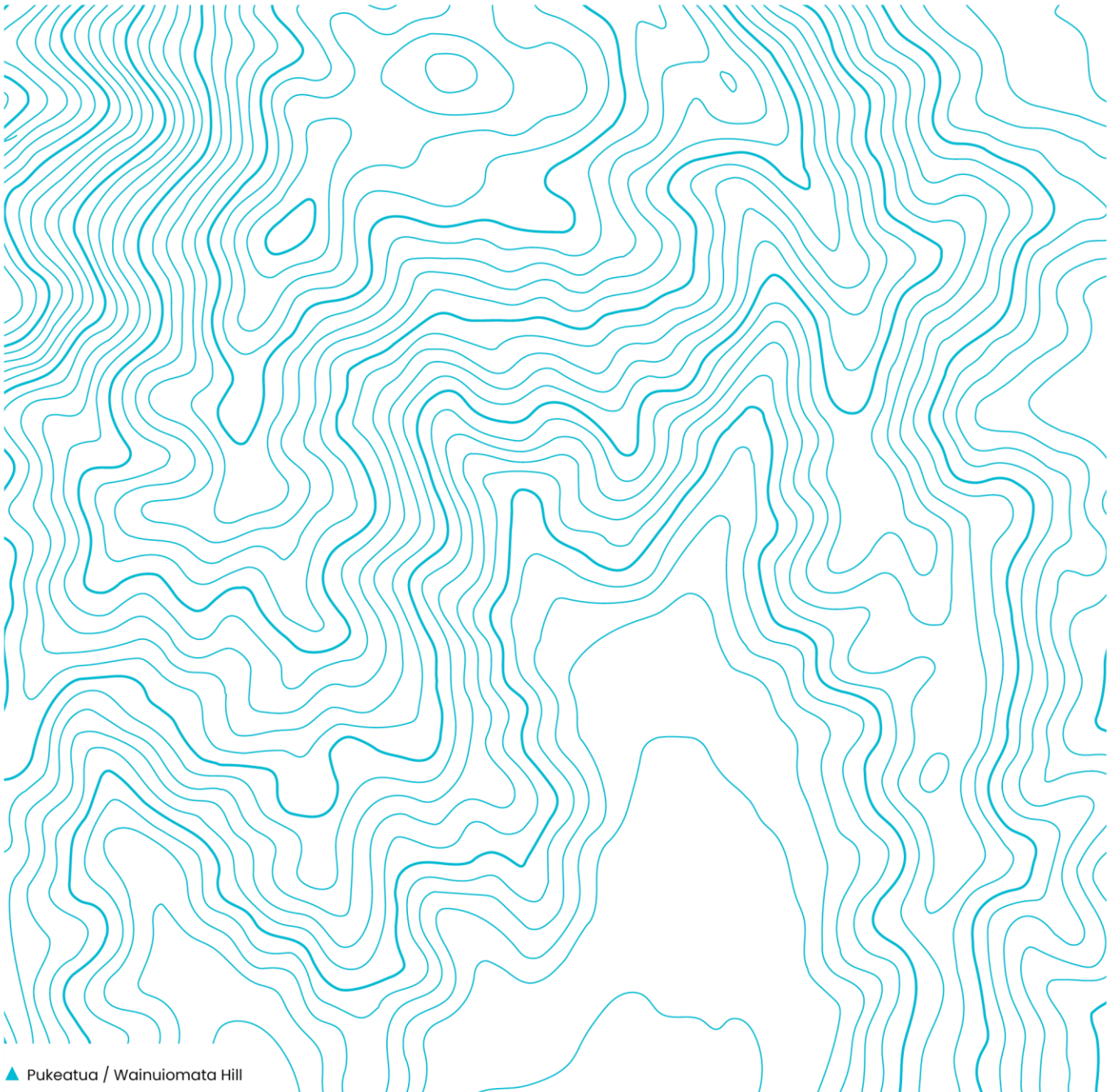


Section 32 Evaluation NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES



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2 Overview and Purpose

- (1) Hutt City Council is reviewing the City of Lower Hutt District Plan. This is a full review of the District Plan, including the approach to natural features and landscapes.
- (2) This report is a record of the review with regard to natural features and landscapes, and includes an evaluation of objectives and provisions for a Natural Features and Landscapes chapter for the proposed District Plan, in accordance with the requirements of s32 of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (3) This report sits as one of a package of reports for the proposed Plan and should be read alongside the General report for matters common to all topics.

Natural Features and Landscapes of the Proposed District Plan

- (4) The purpose of the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter is to manage the effects of activities on identified Outstanding Natural Features (ONF) and Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONL), where appropriate referred to hereafter collectively as Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (ONFL).
- (5) Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are mapped on the proposed District Plan maps as an overlay that applies across multiple zones. The identified areas and values are described in SCHED4 – Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.
- (6) Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are dominated by the natural landscape components and are identified on the basis of their characteristics and values. The main difference between ONL and ONF lies in their scale – Outstanding Natural Features are generally smaller, and the therefore one or more features may be contained within a landscape. The following ONF and ONL have been identified in Hutt City.

Area	ONL / ONF
Turakirae Head	ONF

Baring Head / Ōrua-pouanui	ONF
Parangārahu Lakes (Lake Kohangapiripiri & Lake Kohangatera)	ONF
Makāro / Ward Island	ONF
South Coast	ONL
Mātiu / Somes Island	ONL
Remutaka Range	ONL

Key statutory requirements

- (7) Section 6(b) of the RMA identifies the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development as a matter of national importance.
- (8) The Wellington Regional Policy Statement 2013 (RPS) requires territorial authorities to identify and protect ONFL and manage any effects on them. The ONFL have been identified in accordance with the criteria within Policy 25 of the RPS. The operative District Plan (ODP) does not achieve the level of protection required by the RPS for the qualifying landscape areas.
- (9) Policy 15 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) requires the protection of natural features and natural landscapes in the Coastal Environment.
- (10) Most provisions for ONFL are contained within the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter, including specific provisions where the ONFL may also be located within the Coastal Environment. However, for the following topics the relevant provisions are located in the corresponding chapters:

Report	Relationship to this topic
Subdivision (SUB)	The Subdivision chapter contains the policies and rules relating to subdivision in ONFL. Because these policies and rules for subdivision in ONFL relate primarily to the protection of identified values of ONFL, the relevant s32 evaluation of these provisions is provided in this report. Nevertheless, the s32 report for the subdivision chapter is relevant

Report	Relationship to this topic
	because it addresses the underlying District Plan approach for subdivision in general.
Earthworks (EW)	The Earthworks chapter contains the policies and rules relating to earthworks in ONFL. Because these policies and rules for earthworks in ONFL relate primarily to the protection of identified values of ONFL, the relevant s32 evaluation of these provisions is provided in this report. Nevertheless, the s32 report for the earthworks chapter is relevant because it addresses the underlying District Plan approach for earthworks in general.
Infrastructure (INF)	The Infrastructure chapter includes policies and rules relating to infrastructure in ONFL. Infrastructure provisions which relate to the protection of identified values of ONFL have been considered in the s32 evaluation of this report.
Renewable Electricity Generation (REG)	The Renewable Electricity Generation chapter contains policies and rules relating to renewable energy generation in ONFL. Renewable Electricity Generation provisions which relate to the protection of identified values of ONFL have been considered in the s32 evaluation of this report.
Natural Character (NATC)	The Natural Character chapter contains provisions relating to coastal margins and riparian margins that may be located within ONFL. Therefore, the s32 evaluation report for NATC is of relevance.
Public Access (PA)	The Public Access chapter contains objectives and policies that are relevant for ONFL. Therefore, the s32 evaluation for Public Access is of relevance.

Strategic Direction

- (11) The following objectives in the Strategic Direction chapter of the Proposed District Plan are the most relevant to this topic.

Strategic Direction Objectives	
Natural Environment	
NESD-03	Natural Character, Natural Features and Landscapes, Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity
Protect and enhance the natural character, natural features and landscapes, ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity of the city.	
NESD-04	Mātiu – Makāro – Mokopuna
Mouri Motu, Mouri Tangata, Mouri Ora Protecting and strengthening the mouri of the Harbour Islands and their ecosystems to revitalise and enhance the health and well-being of people and communities involved with the Islands, and be life-sustaining for all.	
Tangata Whenua	
TWSD-01	Role of Tangata Whenua
The role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki in the protection and management of the natural and physical resources of an area is acknowledged and provided for.	
TWSD-03	Wāhi taonga and sites of significance to tangata whenua
Wāhi taonga and sites of significance to tangata whenua are protected.	
TWSD-04	Culture, Traditions and Social and Economic Aspirations
Tangata whenua are able to protect, develop and use Whenua Māori in a way that is consistent with their culture and traditions and their social and economic aspirations.	

Urban Form and Development

UDSD-08 Rural and Open Space Areas

Rural and open space areas are retained surrounding the urban area in the form a greenbelt which extends along the western and eastern hills, and along the eastern bays to the southern coast, that:

- a. Enables the ongoing primary production and active and passive recreation uses; and
- b. Protects the cultural, heritage, and natural values of these areas.

UDSD-09 City Wide Network of Open Spaces

A city wide network of open spaces is maintained and enhanced which are valued for their:

- a. Active and passive recreation and community uses
- b. Cultural, heritage and natural values
- c. Resilience role in emergencies.

3 Statutory and Policy Context

- (12) The following sections discuss the national, regional and local policy framework that are particularly relevant to the statutory and policy context for natural features and landscapes.

3.1 Resource Management Act 1991

3.1.1 Section 5 – Purpose and Principles

- (13) The purpose of the RMA is set out in Section 5. The purpose is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- (14) Under s5(2) of the Act, sustainable management means:

managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while—

- (a) *sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) *safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) *avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

3.1.2 Section 6 – Matters of National Importance

- (15) Section 6 of the RMA sets out matters of national importance that all persons exercising functions and powers under the Act shall *recognise and provide for* in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The relevant s6 matters for natural features and landscapes are:

Section	Relevant Matter
6(a)	<i>The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.</i>
6(b)	<i>The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.</i>
6(c)	<i>The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.</i> Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna contribute to natural character and identified values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.
6(e)	<i>The relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.</i> There are strong historical and cultural relationship with ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga within identified ONFL.
6(g)	<i>The protection of protected customary rights.</i> Tangata whenua value areas of ONFL where they hold cultural and spiritual value, including customary use.

3.1.3 Section 7 – Other Matters

- (16) Section 7 of the RMA sets out other matters that all persons exercising functions and powers under it shall *have particular regard to* in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The relevant s7 matters for natural character are:

Section	Relevant Matter
7(a)	<i>Kaitiakitanga</i>
7(aa)	<i>Ethic of stewardship</i>
7(b)	<i>The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources</i>
7(c)	<i>The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values</i>
7(f)	<i>Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment</i>

7(g)	<i>Any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources</i>
7(i)	<i>The effects of climate change</i>
7(j)	<i>The benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy</i>

3.1.4 Section 8 – Treaty of Waitangi

- (17) Section 8 of the RMA requires Council to *take into account* the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi when exercising functions and powers under the Act.
- (18) Council works in partnership with Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust), Wellington Tenth Trust, Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust, Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Incorporated and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated to actively provide for and protect their interests and develop provisions to recognise and provide opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga.

3.1.5 Section 31 – Functions of Territorial Authorities under this Act

- (19) Section 31 lists the functions of territorial authorities. The following are of relevance to the Natural Character chapter:
- The establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district (s31(1)(a)), and
 - The control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land (s31(1)(b)). This includes for the purpose of the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards and maintenance of indigenous biological diversity.

3.2 National Policy Statements and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

- (20) Section 75(3)(a) of the RMA requires district plans to give effect to any National Policy Statement. Section 75(3)(b) of the RMA requires district plans to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- (21) The relevant national policy statements and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement area discussed below.

3.2.1 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

- (22) The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS) sets out objectives and policies to achieve the purpose of the RMA in relation to the coastal environment. The relevant objectives and policies of the NZCPS as they relate to natural features and landscapes are identified below. The full wording of the relevant objectives and policies are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Reference	Comment
Objective 2	<i>To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values ...</i>
Objective 4	<i>To maintain and enhance the public open space qualities and recreation opportunities of the coastal environment ...</i>
Objective 6	<i>To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development ...</i>
Policy 6	<i>Activities in the coastal environment</i> Gives direction on activities in the Coastal Environment, including to consider how adverse visual impacts of development in sensitive areas can be avoided.
Policy 15	<i>Natural features and natural landscapes</i> Gives direction for the protection of natural features and natural landscapes of the Coastal Environment from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

3.2.2 NPS for Electricity Transmission

(23) The objective of the NPS for Electricity Transmission 2008 (NPS-ET) is:

To recognise the national significance of the electricity transmission network by facilitating the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the existing transmission network and the establishment of new transmission resources to meet the needs of present and future generations, while:

- *managing the adverse environmental effects of the network; and*
- *managing the adverse effects of other activities on the network.*

(24) The most relevant policies of the operative NPS-ET for the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter are listed below.

Reference	Comment
Policy 4	<i>When considering the environmental effects of new transmission infrastructure or major upgrades of existing transmission infrastructure, decision-makers must have regard to the extent to which any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection.</i>
Policy 5	<i>When considering the environmental effects of transmission activities associated with transmission assets, decision-makers must enable the reasonable operational, maintenance and minor upgrade requirements of established electricity transmission assets.</i>
Policy 6	<i>Substantial upgrades of transmission infrastructure should be used as an opportunity to reduce existing adverse effects of transmission including such effects on sensitive activities where appropriate.</i>
Policy 7	<i>Planning and development of the transmission system should minimise adverse effects on urban amenity and avoid adverse effects on town centres and areas of high recreational value or amenity and existing sensitive activities.</i>
Policy 8	<i>In rural environments, planning and development of the transmission system should seek to avoid adverse effects on outstanding natural landscapes, areas of high natural character and areas of high recreation value and amenity and existing sensitive activities.</i>

3.2.3 NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation

(25) The objective of the NPS for Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS-REG) is:

To recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand's electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government's national target for renewable electricity generation.

(26) The most relevant policies of the operative NPS-REG are listed below.

Reference	Comment
Policy C1	<p><i>Decision-makers shall have particular regard to the following matters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) the need to locate the renewable electricity generation activity where the renewable energy resource is available;</i> <i>(b) logistical or technical practicalities associated with developing, upgrading, operating or maintaining the renewable electricity generation activity;</i> <i>(c) the location of existing structures and infrastructure including, but not limited to, roads, navigation and telecommunication structures and facilities, the distribution network and the national grid in relation to the renewable electricity generation activity, and the need to connect renewable electricity generation activity to the national grid;</i> <i>(d) designing measures which allow operational requirements to complement and provide for mitigation opportunities; and</i> <i>(e) adaptive management measures.</i>
Policy C2	<p><i>When considering any residual environmental effects of renewable electricity generation activities that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, decision-makers shall have regard to offsetting measures or environmental compensation including measures or compensation which benefit the local environment and community affected.</i></p>

3.2.4 NPS on Urban Development

- (27) The NPS on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) aims to support well-functioning urban environments to provide for current and future community well-being. It requires RMA plans to provide opportunities for land development to meet housing and business needs, supported by adequate development capacity.
- (28) While Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are not addressed specifically, the NPS-UD is relevant as there may be medium to long term ambitions to address housing and business needs through developing land within ONFL. In addition, the location of ONFL may be a relevant qualifying matter where it is appropriate to make density requirements under Policy 3 of the NPS-UD less enabling.

3.2.5 NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity

- (29) The purpose of the NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPS-IB) is to provide direction to councils to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity requiring at least no further reduction nationally. The NPS-IB puts a strong focus on the involvement of tangata whenua as partners and on the engagement with people and communities, including landowners.
- (30) The NPS-IB directs territorial authorities to:
- Identify significant natural areas and include them in their district plans (using criteria prescribed by the NPS), and
 - Manage the effects of new subdivision, use and development on the identified areas and indigenous biodiversity in general.
- (31) The prescribed management approach is to avoid the following adverse effects:
- The loss of ecosystem representation and extent;
 - The disruption to sequences, mosaics, or ecosystem function;
 - The fragmentation of SNAs or the loss of buffers or connections within an SNA;
 - A reduction in the function of the SNA as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems; and

- A reduction in the population size or occupancy of Threatened or At Risk (declining) species that use an SNA for any part of their life cycle.
- (32) Any other adverse effects must be managed by applying the effects management hierarchy outlined in the NPS-IB.
- (33) The NPS-IB also requires the management of any adverse effects of new subdivision, use and development on indigenous biodiversity outside of SNA. Any significant adverse effects must be managed applying the effects management hierarchy and any other adverse effects must be managed to give effect to the objective and policies of the NPS-IB.

3.3 National environmental standards

- (34) National Environmental Standards are regulations made under s43 of the RMA, and effectively function like rules in a district or regional plan.
- (35) The following NES are relevant for natural features and landscapes.

3.3.1 NES for Electricity Transmission Activities

- (36) The NES for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009 (NES-ETA) set out a national framework of permissions and consent requirements for activities on existing electricity transmission lines. Activities include the operation, maintenance and upgrading of existing lines. They set out which transmission activities are permitted, subject to conditions to control the environmental effects.
- (37) The relevant regulations for NFL relate to general regulations on trimming, felling and removing of trees and vegetation (Regulations 30, 31 and 32) and Earthworks (Regulations 33 and 34). The trimming, felling and removing of trees and vegetation in relation to an existing transmission line is permitted subject to standards and elevates to controlled or restricted discretionary depending on the conditions breached. Earthworks are permitted activities subject to conditions and elevate to controlled where conditions are breached.

3.3.2 NES for Telecommunication Facilities

- (38) The NES for Telecommunication Facilities 2016 (NES-TF) aims to provide national consistency in the rules surrounding the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure across New Zealand while ensuring the effects on the environment are minimised and managed appropriately.
- (39) The most relevant regulation for NFL is regulation 50, which manages activities carried out at places subject to outstanding natural features or landscape rules.

3.3.3 NES for Commercial Forestry

- (40) The NES for Commercial Forestry 2023 (NES-CF) amends the previous NES for Plantation Forestry. It applies to plantation forestry and to exotic continuous-cover forests (carbon forests) that are deliberately established for commercial purposes. It provides nationally consistent regulations to manage the environmental effects of eight core commercial forestry activities (e.g. afforestation, earthworks and harvesting).
- (41) Regulation 6 of the NES-CF states that a rule in a District Plan may be more stringent than the regulations of the NES where it gives effect to the NPS-FM or certain policies of the NZCPS. The most relevant provisions are regulation 14 and 16 which regulate the activity status for afforestation and introduce setback requirements. Regulations 23 and 29 regulate Earthworks and related setbacks.

3.4 National Planning Standards

- (42) Section 75(3)(ba) requires district plans to give effect to national planning standards.
- (43) The National Planning Standards require that where the following matters are addressed, they must be included in the NFL chapter in Part 2 – district wide matters of the District Plan:
- identification of features and landscapes that are outstanding, significant or otherwise valued;

- provisions to protect and manage outstanding natural features and landscapes including from inappropriate subdivision, use and development; and
- provisions to manage other valued features and landscapes.

Topic & unique identifier	Location in DP structure	Elements included under that topic	Elements addressed under other topic areas
Natural Features and Landscapes NFL	Part 2 – District wide matters Natural Environmental Values	Identification of features and landscapes that are outstanding, significant, or otherwise valued. Provisions to protect and manage ONFL, including from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. Provisions to manage other valued features and landscapes.	Energy and Infrastructure provisions relating NFL are located in the INF-NFL and REG chapters. Earthworks provisions relating to NFL are located in the EW chapter. Subdivision provisions relating to NFL located in the SUB chapter.

3.5 Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

- (44) Section 75(3)(c) of the RMA requires district plans to give effect to any regional policy statement.
- (45) The Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (‘the RPS’) identifies the significant resource management issues for the region and outlines the policies and methods required to achieve the integrated sustainable management of the region’s natural and physical resources.
- (46) The relevant objectives and policies of the RPS for natural features and landscapes are discussed below. The full wording of relevant provisions below is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

Section 3.2 Coastal Environment (including public access)

Objective 3	<i>Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected; and Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have recreational, cultural, historical or landscape values that are significant are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
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Section 3.7 Landscape

Objective 17	<i>The region's outstanding natural features and landscapes are identified and their landscape values protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i>
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Objective 18	<i>The region's special amenity landscapes are identified and those landscape values that contribute to amenity and the quality of the environment are maintained or enhanced.</i>
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Policy 25	<i>Identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes</i> Requires District Plans to identify outstanding natural features and landscapes.
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Policy 26	<i>Protecting outstanding natural features and landscape values</i> Requires District Plans to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use or development.
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Policy 27	<i>Identifying special amenity landscapes</i> States that District Plans may identify special amenity landscapes.
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Policy 28	<i>Managing special amenity landscape values</i> Requires District Plans to manage impacts on special amenity landscapes (if they have been identified).
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Policy 50	<i>Managing effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes</i>
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	Specifies matters to be considered during plan making and resource consenting processes for impacts on outstanding natural features and landscapes.
Section 3.10 Resource Management with Tangata Whenua	
Objective 27	<i>Mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes, are maintained and enhanced, and these resources are healthy and accessible to tangata whenua.</i>
Objective 28	<i>The cultural relationship of Māori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is maintained.</i>
Policy 49	<i>Recognising and providing for matters of significance to tangata whenua</i>

3.5.1 Proposed RPS Change 1

- (47) On 19 August 2022 Greater Wellington Regional Council notified Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region (Proposed RPS Change 1). Decisions on Proposed RPS Change 1 were notified in September 2024, some of which are subject to appeal under Schedule 1 of the RMA and some of which are operative, having been progressed through the Freshwater Planning Process.
- (48) While Proposed RPS Change 1 does not propose any changes to the objectives and policies relevant for Natural Landscapes and Features the newly introduced Objectives and policies relating to Climate Change are of some relevance. The table below lists the relevant climate change objective and policy as notified. Section 42A reports available at the time of writing this evaluation recommend substantial changes to the provisions as notified. The full wording of relevant provisions below is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

Proposed RPS Change 1	
3.1A Climate Change (new chapter)	
<i>Objective CC.1</i>	<i>By 2050, the Wellington Region is a low-emission and climate-resilient region, where climate change mitigation and adaptation are an integral part of:</i> <i>(a) sustainable air, land, freshwater, and coastal management,</i> <i>(b) well-functioning urban environments and rural areas, and</i> <i>(c) well-planned infrastructure.</i>
<i>Policy CC.4</i>	<i>Climate resilient urban areas – district and regional plans</i>

3.6 Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

- (49) Section 74(2)(a)(ii) of the RMA requires territorial authorities, when preparing or changing a district plan, to have regard to any proposed regional plan of its region in regard to any matter of regional significance or for which the regional council has primary responsibility under Part 4 of the Act.
- (50) The following provisions of the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region are relevant for natural features and landscapes. The full wording of relevant provisions below is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region	
Objective O1	<i>Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea</i>
Objective O2	
Objective O9	<i>Beneficial use and development</i>
Objective O10	
Objective O11	
Objective O12	<i>Māori relationships</i>

Objective O13	
Objective O26	<i>Sites with significant values</i>
Objective O29	
Policy P1	<i>Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management</i>
Policy P7	<i>Beneficial activities</i>
Policy P14	<i>The National Grid</i>
Policy P20	<i>Māori values</i>
Policy P21	<i>Exercise of kaitiakitanga</i>
Policy P23	<i>Identification of outstanding/high natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes</i>
Policy P29	<i>Natural buffers</i>
Policy P36	<i>Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</i>
Policy P37	<i>Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies</i>
Policy P52	<i>Protecting natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development</i>
Policy P53	<i>Significant geological features</i>
Policy P109	<i>Management of riparian margins</i>
Policy P141	<i>Public open space values and visual amenity</i>
Policy P145	<i>Structures in sites with significant values</i>
Policy P150	<i>Deposition in a site with significant values</i>
Policy P151	<i>Dumping in a site with significant values</i>

3.7 Proposed NRP Change 1

- (51) On 30 October 2023 Greater Wellington Regional Council notified Proposed Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan (Proposed NRP Change 1).
- (52) The purpose of Proposed NRP Change 1 is the implementation of regulatory and non-regulatory recommendations from the Whaitua Implementation Programmes (Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara Implementation Programmes). It also includes other regulatory amendments relating to air quality rules and beds of lakes and rivers rules and new sites with significant biodiversity values.
- (53) The most relevant amendments and additions of Proposed NRP Change 1 are listed below. The full wording of relevant provisions below is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

Proposed NRP Change 1	
Policy P36	<i>Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</i>
<u>8 Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara</u>	
<u>Objective WH.01</u>	<u>The health of all freshwater bodies and the coastal marine area within Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara is progressively improved and is wai ora by 2100.</u>
<u>Objective WH.02</u>	<u>The health and wellbeing of Te Whanganui-a-Tara’s groundwater, rivers and natural wetlands and their margins are on a trajectory of measurable improvement towards wai ora ...</u>
<u>Objective WH.05</u>	<u>By 2040 the health and wellbeing of the Parangarahu Lakes and associated natural wetlands are on a trajectory of improvement towards wai ora ...</u>
<u>8.2.1 Ecosystem health and water quality</u>	
<u>Policy WH.P2</u>	<u>Management of activities to achieve target attribute states and coastal water objectives</u>

8.2.4 Rural land use and earthworks	
<u>Policy WH.P21:</u>	<u>Managing diffuse discharges of nutrients and Escherichia coli from farming activities</u>
<u>Policy WH.P29:</u>	<u>Management of earthworks</u>
<u>Policy WH.P31:</u>	<u>Winter shut down of earthworks</u>

3.8 Iwi management plans

- (54) Section 74(2A) requires territorial authorities, when preparing or changing a district plan, to take into account any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority and lodged with the territorial authority, to the extent that its content has a bearing on the resource management issues of the district.
- (55) However, no iwi management plans have been lodged with Hutt City Council.

3.9 Hutt City Council plans, policies, and strategies

- (56) Section 74(2)(b)(i) of the RMA requires that when preparing or changing a District Plan, a territorial authority shall have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts.
- (57) In addition, there are other plans, policies and strategies of Council that, while not directly prepared under a specific Act, should be considered as part of the District Plan Review as they set Council’s intentions on some matters that need to be addressed through the District Plan Review.
- (58) The following Council plans, policies and strategies are relevant for natural features and landscapes:

Plan / Policy / Strategy	Relevant Provisions
Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2015-2045	<p>The 'Environmental Sustainability Strategy takes a long-term view of the environment. The strategy looks at the issues, risks and opportunities for the environment and addresses potential issues and change.</p> <p>The strategy acknowledges the threat to natural landscapes from future land-use and recognises landscape protection as one of the benefits of public open spaces.</p>
Reserves Strategic Direction 2016-2026	<p>The focus of this strategy is on the 2,780 hectares of reserve land in the developed parts of the city that HCC manage and that the public can generally access. They include 'green spaces', parks, walkways and cycle ways, trails and tracks, hills and gullies, valleys, the harbour, the coastal edge, wetlands, streams and rivers and their margins.</p> <p>Vision Statement: A reserve network that is valued for protecting the natural environment and public open space, the benefits it brings to the city and its role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the people and the natural environment of our city.</p> <p>Some areas that have been identified as ONFLs are within Council reserves.</p>

3.10 District plans of adjacent territorial authorities

- (59) Section 74(2)(c) of the RMA requires territorial authorities, when preparing or changing a district plan, to *have regard to* the extent to which the district plan needs to be consistent with the plans or proposed plans of adjacent territorial authorities.
- (60) The approach of district plans of other territorial authorities in the Wellington region are discussed below:

Plan	Relevant Provisions
Proposed Wellington District Plan (operative in part)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed District Plan notified on 18 July 2022. • Includes a Natural Landscapes and Features (NFL) Chapter with objectives, policies and rules managing the effects of activities on ONFL, SAL and Ridgelines and Hilltops both outside and within the Coastal Environment. • Provisions differentiate between overlays, with ridgelines and hilltops being the most permissive and ONFL being the most restrictive. • Policies and rules of the NFL chapter manage restoration, land use activities, quarrying and mining activities, plantation forestry and buildings and structures. • Subdivision, earthworks, infrastructure and renewable electricity generation within the overlays are addressed in the SUB, EW, INF-NFL and REG chapters.
Proposed Porirua District Plan (operative in part)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed District Plan notified on 28 August 2020. Decision notified in December 2023, no appeals relating to Natural Features and Landscapes, provisions have legal effect. • Includes a Natural Features and Landscapes (NFL) Chapter with objectives, policies and rules managing effects of activities on ONFL and SAL both outside and within the Coastal Environment. • Policies and rules in the NFL chapter address earthworks and vegetation removal, papakāinga housing, buildings and structures, plantation forestry and quarry or mining activities. • For subdivision within NFL the policies are located in NFL chapter, rules are located in SUB chapter. • Infrastructure and renewable electricity generation within NFL are addressed in the INF and REG chapters.
Upper Hutt District Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains a Natural Features and Landscapes Chapter • The chapter identifies and manages effects of activities on the identified Southern Hill Overlay Area and Protected Ridgelines. While the Remutaka ONL (of the proposed Lower Hutt District Plan) abuts the boundary of Upper Hutt, it does not abut the overlays or ridgelines of the Upper Hutt District Plan.

<p>Kāpiti Coast District Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains a Natural Features and Landscapes Chapter. • The chapter comprises policies and rules that identify and manage ONFL, SAL and geological features. • ONFL rules apply to land and activities in all zones unless otherwise specified. • No specific rules for SAL but location in an SAL becomes relevant where discretionary or non-complying activity resource consents are required under rules of other Chapters. • Provisions in other chapters of the Plan may also be relevant (e.g. Earthworks in ONLF).
<p>Proposed Combined Wairarapa District Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed District Plan – Notified on 11 October 2023. • Includes a Natural Features and Landscapes Chapter with objectives, policies and rules managing effects on ONFL and SAL. • ONFL provisions differentiate between location within or outside the CE. • Policies address subdivision, use and development, including earthworks, infrastructure, buildings and structures, vegetation removal and customary activities. • Rules manage earthworks, modification of indigenous vegetation, buildings and structures, plantation forestry and customary activities. • The <i>Remutaka ONL</i> (of the proposed Lower Hutt District Plan) abuts the <i>ONFL1 – Remutaka and Tararua Forest Parks</i> of the Combined Wairarapa District Plan.

3.11 Other statutory and non-statutory plan, policies, and strategies

(61) In addition to Hutt City Council’s plans, policies and strategies (discussed above), there are regional and national plans, policies and strategies that, while not mandatory considerations for the District Plan Review, should still be considered as they form part of the management regime for natural and physical resources in the district, and considering these documents can aid integrated management.

(62) The following other statutory and non-statutory plans, policies and strategies are relevant for natural character:

Plan, Policy, or Strategy	Comments
<p>Parangarahu Lakes Area Co-Management Plan 2014</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust</p>	<p>Identifies the lakes their associated tributaries and wetlands as an area of national significance and outlines the issues, vision and management objectives.</p>
<p>Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Plan 2012-2017</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p>	<p>Outlines the vision, guiding principles and key management issues and objectives for the management of the islands in the harbour.</p>
<p>Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-2030</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council</p>	<p>Toitū Te Whenua is the management plan for eight regional parks and forests. It includes Akatarawa, Battle Hill, Belmont, East Harbour (including the Northern Forest, Baring Head/Ōrua Pouanui and Parangarahu Lakes), Kaitoke, Pakuratahi, Queen Elizabeth and Wainuiomata parks.</p> <p>The Plan's vision is 'Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature'. 'He waka eke noa', we're all in this together moving forward.</p>
<p>Hutt and Wainuiomata / Orongorongo water collection areas management plan 2016</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council</p>	<p>Together these water collection areas annually supply approximately 60% of Wellington's water. Managing the water collection areas to ensure optimum water quality reduces the risk of contamination and minimises the need for more expensive water treatment.</p> <p>This plan focuses on management of the water catchments of the Hutt and Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo rivers upstream of the water intakes to address primary goals of achieving:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water quality which meets or exceeds drinking water standards • catchment management to maximise volumes of raw water secondary goals of protecting, and • enhancing biodiversity and heritage values and providing for limited recreation opportunities. <p>Whilst the Parks Network Plan (2011) is the overarching management plan for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) park network, its scope does not encompass the two water collection areas (WCA) which are managed primarily for water supply purposes.</p>
<p>Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao</p> <p>Greater Wellington Regional Council, Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira</p>	<p>A Mana Whenua whaitua implementation plan to return mana to our freshwater bodies. There are a number of values and environmental outcomes identified, with timeframes for implementation. Many of these are directly related to NFL.</p> <p><i>‘Many of the key flood protection activities are identified as high potential impact activities and require discretionary activity resource consent under the PNRP. These methods often directly impact on the remaining natural form and character of the region’s rivers and streams.’</i></p> <p><i>Long term (30+ years) – ‘The āhua (natural character) of the Korokoro, Kaiwharawhara, Te Awa Kairangi, Wainuiomata, and Ōrongorongo awa and Parangārehu Lakes (Parangārahu Lakes is also an acceptable spelling alternative) is fully restored in the long term.’</i></p> <p><i>Greater Wellington and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust jointly manage the Parangārehu Lakes Area through a “rōpū tiaki” or guardianship group. The iwi and co-management partner, Greater Wellington, have drafted a management plan jointly to support the ecology of the area.</i></p>

3.12 Other legislation or regulations

- (63) In addition to the RMA, other legislation and regulations can be relevant considerations for a district plan, particularly where management of an issue is addressed through multiple pieces of legislation and regulatory bodies.
- (64) The following other legislation and regulations are relevant for natural features and landscapes.

Legislation / Regulation	Relevant Provisions
Conservation Act 1987	The Conservation Act 1987 created the Department of Conservation (DOC), which promotes the conservation of New Zealand’s natural and historic resources. DOC manages national parks, marine reserves and other conservation areas.
Reserves Act 1977	<p>The Reserves Act 1977 was established to acquire, preserve and manage areas for their conservation values or public recreational and educational values.</p> <p>Two of the main functions that relate to landscapes and natural features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To provide for the preservation and management, for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas possessing some special feature or values such as recreational use, wildlife, landscape amenity or scenic value. For example, the reserve may have value for recreation, education, as wildlife habitat or as an interesting landscape.</i> • <i>To ensure, as far as practicable, the preservation of representative natural ecosystems or landscapes and the survival of indigenous species of flora and fauna, both rare and commonplace.</i>

4 Resource management issues

4.1 Introduction to resource management issues

- (65) The purpose of the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter is to protect identified Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and to manage the effects of subdivision, use and development on the identified values. ONFL are identified on the planning maps and their values are identified within SCHED4 – Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.
- (66) Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are exceptional and out of the ordinary and are dominated by natural components over the influence of human activity. The main difference between an Outstanding Natural Landscape and an Outstanding Natural Feature lies in their scale – the scale of a feature is such that one or more features may be contained within a landscape.
- (67) The District Plan provisions distinguish between ‘features’ and ‘landscapes’ to protect the identified values at the appropriately scale. The following ONF and ONL have been identified in Hutt City:
- South Coast (ONL)
 - Turakirae Head (ONF)
 - Baring Head / Ōrua-Pouanui (ONF)
 - Parangārahu Lakes (Lake Kohangapiripiri & Lake Kohangatera) (ONF)
 - Matiu / Somes Island (ONL)
 - Mākaro / Ward Island (ONF)
 - Remutaka Range (ONL)
- (68) The ONFL have been identified using the criteria in Policy 25 of the Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement. Some of the identified ONFL (or parts thereof) are located in the Coastal Environment and may have been identified as High, Very High or Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas

as well. Where this is the case both, the provisions of the NFL chapter and the relevant provisions of the Coastal Environment Chapter apply.

4.2 Evidence base

(69) Key aspects of the District Plan Review for the NFL chapter have included commissioning expert advice on the location of ONFLs, an evaluation of the review of the approach of the operative District Plan, reviews of district plans of other councils in the Wellington region, a review of relevant guidance documents, and engagement with Mana Whenua, the community and other stakeholders.

4.2.1 Expert advice on the location of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

(70) The identification of ONFLs for the District Plan Review is based on the Hutt City Landscape Evaluation 2016 from Boffa Miskell. This evaluation was undertaken as part of Council's Ecology and Landscapes project from 2016–2018.

(71) The purpose of that project was to address the Council's requirements under the RMA and RPS regarding outstanding natural features and landscapes and areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. While the project did not result in any update to the District Plan, the project did advance to the point that ONFLs were identified. As the RMA and RPS requirements for identifying ONFLs have not changed since then (and the landscapes will not have substantially changed since then either), this evaluation is still valid.

(72) The evaluation identifies and maps the landscapes as required by the RPS. The landscapes and features identified are categorised as either outstanding natural landscapes, outstanding natural features, or special amenity landscapes (SALs).

(73) The assessment process comprised the following key steps:

1. Identification of 'candidate sites';
2. Assess each candidate site against the evaluation factors of Policy 25 of the RPS;
3. Establish and apply evaluation thresholds.

- (74) Overall, the study found four ONFs, three ONLs, and four SALs.
- (75) In response to landowner engagement, including concerns raised on the values of the areas identified and the impacts of identification and protection of these areas, Boffa Miskell revisited some of these evaluations in 2024, and have revised the boundaries of some ONFs and ONLs.

4.2.2 Existing approach of City of Lower Hutt District Plan

- (76) The operative District Plan currently does not contain a Natural Features and Landscapes chapter. The topic is currently covered in Chapter 14E Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources.
- (77) The key provisions in the operative District Plan of relevance to this topic are summarised below.

Topic / Chapter	Summary of relevant provisions
14E Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources	<p>Objectives:</p> <p><i>To identify and protect significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources in the City from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i></p> <p>Policies:</p> <p>(a) <i>That a schedule of significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources within the City be compiled.</i></p> <p>(c) <i>That any activity or site development shall not modify, damage or destroy a significant natural, cultural or archaeological resource.</i></p> <p>(d) <i>That any activity or site development shall not compromise the natural character or visual amenity values of a significant natural, cultural or archaeological resource.</i></p> <p>(e) <i>All buildings, structures and activities shall preserve the natural character, visual amenity values and landscape values of the significant natural, cultural or archaeological resources including the identified coastal environment.</i></p>

Topic / Chapter	Summary of relevant provisions
	<p>(f) <i>The scale, height, location and design of all buildings and structures shall protect the amenity values, especially landscape values, of the identified coastal environment.</i></p> <p>(h) <i>That the cultural significance of these natural resources be recognised and protected.</i></p> <p>(i) <i>That any activity or site development shall not modify, damage or destroy the intrinsic values of the ecosystems of a significant natural, cultural or archaeological resource.</i></p> <p>Explanation and Reasons:</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>The Act highlights the need to recognise and provide for outstanding landscapes. It is appropriate to also recognise locations with significant landscape values. Such areas are included within the significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources schedule, and development and activities within these areas will be restricted.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the provisions of Chapter 14E, the requirements of sections 6 and 7 of the Act are also supported by provisions in the following Chapters of the Plan: Residential; Recreation; Rural Residential; Rural; and Subdivision. These provisions include provision for amenity values; management of the clearance of vegetation; preserving the natural appearance of skylines; managing the siting of buildings; managing the visual appearance of earthworks; preserving the visual backdrop to the City; and recognising and providing for the coastal environment.</i></p> <p>...</p> <p>Rules:</p> <p><i>While the District Plan includes rules that require resource consent for new activities and site development works in significant natural resources, these rules do not apply on private properties, with the exception of SNR 9a, b, c and d (Baring Head).</i></p>

(78) Issues with the current approach are:

- The significant natural resources have not been identified by using the assessment criteria prescribed by the RPS;
- The identified significant natural resources focus on both biodiversity values and features and landscapes;
- The objectives and policies do not differentiate between the protection of biodiversity values and landscape values; and
- The objectives and policies are not supported by rules since the rules for significant natural resources do not apply to private properties, with the exception of SNR 9a, b, c and d (Baring Head).

4.2.3 Analysis of other district plans

- (79) The approach of the District Plans of other territorial authorities in the Wellington region are outlined in Section 3.10 above.
- (80) In summary all District Plans include Natural Features and Landscapes chapters with varying levels of identification and related protection of Features and Landscapes.
- The NFL chapter of the Wellington Proposed District Plan (partially operative) addresses ONFL, Special Amenity Landscapes (SAL) and Ridgelines and Hilltops, both, outside and within the Coastal Environment.
 - The NFL chapter of the Porirua Proposed District Plan (partially operative) contains objectives, policies and rules managing the effects of activities on ONFL and SAL.
 - The NFL chapter of the Upper Hutt District Plan identifies and manages effects of activities on the Southern Hill Overlay Area and Protected Ridgelines. Recently identified ONFL and SAL have not yet been incorporated into the ODP.
 - The NFL chapter of the Kapiti Coast District Plan comprises addresses ONFL, SAL, and geological features. While there are no rules for SAL, the location within an SAL becomes a matter for consideration for activities that are discretionary or non-complying under rules of other chapters.
 - The NFL chapter of the Combined Wairarapa Proposed District Plan requires the identification and protection of ONFL and requires the

identification of SAL but does not contain any other policies or rules relating to SAL.

4.2.4 National guidance documents

(81) The following national guidance has been reviewed.

Document	Relevant provisions
Best Practice Guidance – Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management (NZILA, 2010)	Best Practice Guidance for Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management sets out principles for an integrated approach for landscape assessment.
NPS on Electricity Transmission: Implementation guidance for local authorities (MfE, 2009)	Provides guidance to local authorities on how the NPS-ET can be incorporated into regional and district planning instruments.
Environment Guide – Best Practice Planning on ONFLs (Environment Foundation, 2018)	The Environment Guide website provides guidance on best practice for developing objectives, policies, rules and consent conditions for protecting ONFLs. The key points from this guidance are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly describe inappropriate activities; • Methods should provide incentives for voluntary action to protect and enhance ONFLs; and Exclude activities from ONFLs if they will have any adverse effects on the ONFL.

4.2.5 Advice from Mana Whenua

(82) Council has engaged with mana whenua as part of the District Plan Review, particularly through the Kāhui Mana Whenua engagement group. Through this engagement, mana whenua have advised that the natural environment

are of particular significance to Māori, and their values can be impacted (and have been impacted in the past) from inappropriate land use and development.

- (83) In addition, a number of sites and areas of significance to Māori have been identified that have also been identified in areas identified as Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, particularly in the areas around Pencarrow, Baring and Turakirae Heads, Fitzroy Bay, the Parangarahu Lakes, and the Harbour Islands. In the case of the Harbour Islands (Mātiu, Mākara and Mokopuna islands) these were vested with the trustees of Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust by the Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009.

4.2.6 Feedback on the Draft District Plan

- (84) In late 2023 the Draft District Plan was released for public feedback. The feedback and suggestions received were taken into consideration and informed the proposed provisions.
- (85) The feedback received on the NFL chapter of the Draft District Plan ranges from general support and suggested amendments to general opposition to the introduction of ONFL (or similar overlays) altogether. Some of the feedback received seeks further clarification regarding the applicability of several overlays.
- (86) Some feedback considers the proposed provisions to be too restrictive and requests more permissive provisions, for example:
- Allowing for public amenity infrastructure, recreational activities and activities provided for in reserve management plans;
 - Being more enabling for buildings and structures associated with public recreation;
 - Not limiting what can be done on a functional farm and rather rely on a voluntary approach; and
 - Not applying the ONFL overlay to privately owned properties.
- (87) Other feedback asked for stricter provisions, for example:
- Applying the effects management hierarchy to activities that have functional need to be located within an ONFL.

- (88) Specific comments have been received in relation to infrastructure and earthworks in ONFL.
- (89) A limited number of feedback requests the review of the boundaries of the identified ONFL. In response, the boundaries of some ONFL have been reviewed by landscape experts of Boffa Miskell, and some boundaries have been revised as a result of that review.

4.3 Summary of issues analysis

- (90) Based on the research, analysis and consultation outlined above the following resource management issues have been identified.

Issue 1: Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes should be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

- (91) Section 6 of the RMA requires the protection of ONFL from inappropriate subdivision and use.
- (92) The RPS requires the identification and protection of ONFL.
- (93) Policy 15 of the NZCPS requires the avoidance of adverse effects of activities on ONFL in the Coastal Environment.
- (94) Increased urban growth, rural activities and activities on public land have the potential to threaten the values and characteristics of ONFL.
- (95) In response:
- A district wide assessment to identify outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes has been completed.
 - The proposed Natural Features and Landscapes chapter includes a framework of objectives, policies and rules to manage activities and protect identified values of ONFL.
 - The proposed policies and rules specifically address ONFL within the coastal environment to avoid adverse effects.

Issue 2: Provisions restricting subdivision, use and development within ONFL may limit expected use of land.

- (96) Requiring resource consent for any activity within a landscape overlay could increase the cost of development and place additional pressure on consent processing at Council.
- (97) Proposed provisions may result in some existing sites no longer being able to realise previous development potential.
- (98) In response, the proposed Natural Features and Landscapes chapter:
- Provides for existing activities and minor activities, which will have acceptable effects on identified landscape values, as a permitted activity.
 - Includes a balanced consenting framework that allows for an assessment of potential adverse effects of use and development on the identified values.

Issue 3: Ability for tangata whenua to exercise traditional cultural practices could be constrained

- (99) Section 6 of the RMA lists “the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga” as matter of national importance.
- (100) Section 8 of the RMA requires “all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)”.
- (101) Kaitiakitanga and cultural harvesting should be provided for within ONFL.
- (102) In response, the proposed Natural Features and Landscapes chapter:
- Enables traditional cultural harvesting within ONFL as a permitted activity.
 - Acknowledges and provides for kaitiakitanga.

Issue 4: Proposed provisions need to allow for the maintenance and operation of existing network infrastructure

- (103) Additional resource consent requirements could result in unintended delays for routine operation and maintenance activities.
- (104) Uncertainty and cost associated with resource consent process could result in disruption of services.
- (105) In response:
- Specific provisions address the management of infrastructure in the ONFL (located in the INF chapter).
 - Policies and rules recognise and provide for the ongoing operation, maintenance and repair of existing network infrastructure (including the National Grid) within ONFL.
 - Effects of upgrading and new infrastructure would be managed through a framework that allows for an assessment of the effects on identified values.

Issue 5: Overlap with other policies and strategies.

- (106) Large areas of identified ONFL located within reserves, parks and open space areas that are managed by other strategies and plans. These documents may consider and respond to similar issues based on different legislation.
- (107) In response, provisions of the proposed District Plan avoid the duplication of existing provisions where possible.

5 Scale and significance assessment

(108) In writing this evaluation report we must provide a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects anticipated from the implementation of the proposal.

(109) In assessing that scale and significance we have had regard to:

<p>Basis for change</p>	<p>High - The proposed Natural Features and Landscapes chapter gives effect to and implement national direction and higher order policy direction, including s6 of the RMA, NZCPS and the RPS.</p> <p>Section 6(c) of the RMA identifies the protection of ONFL as a matter of national importance.</p> <p>Hutt City Landscape Evaluation 2016 identified four Outstanding Natural Features and three Outstanding Natural Landscapes.</p> <p>The operative provisions do not identify or protect ONFL and therefore do not give effect to higher order legislation.</p>
<p>Degree of change from the operative plan</p>	<p>High - The proposed regulatory approach to managing adverse effects on ONFL is a significant change from the current lack of identification and protection of ONFL.</p>
<p>Who and how many will be affected / geographical scale of effects</p>	<p>The landscape assessment identified three ONL and four ONF, comprising around 125 properties. Of these, 97 properties are privately owned while 28 are publicly owned.</p> <p>Approximately 63% of ONF and 79% of ONL are located on public land.</p>

Timing and duration of effects	<p>Timing and duration of effects from activities will vary, depending on the activities that take place.</p> <p>Once beyond challenge the operative provisions will have an ongoing effect until reviewed as part of the Council’s statutory requirements to undertake a plan review.</p>
Type of effects impacts	<p>The proposed provisions introduce additional resource consent requirements for use and development in identified ONFL.</p> <p>The proposed provisions differentiate between ONF and ONL (in recognition of the different scale and sensitivity) and are more restrictive where ONFL are located within the coastal environment.</p> <p>Most of the affected areas are located in remote and rural areas and are therefore less likely to be subject to additional development intentions.</p>
Degree of interest from mana whenua	<p>Tangata whenua have a particular interest in some of the areas identified as ONFL.</p>
Degree of risk or uncertainty	<p>Plan changes comprising new, spatially defined overlay areas and introducing provisions to manage activities in these overlays are generally contentious because they represent a regulatory change.</p> <p>However, the approach to protecting identified values in the coastal environment is well understood and therefore the degree of risk and uncertainty is low.</p>

(110) Overall, the scale and significance of the effects of the proposed provisions are considered to be medium to high for the following reasons:

- The Proposed District Plan represents a substantial shift from the status quo – the proposed provisions identify ONFL and introduce district wide provisions to protect and preserve identified values in these areas; and

- The proposed provisions will introduce a range of new regulatory controls, narrowing the scope of permitted activities and thereby generating an increased need for resource consent.

6 Proposed District Plan objectives and provisions

- (111) The proposed provisions relevant to this topic are set out in detail in the ePlan and should be referenced to in conjunction with this evaluation report.

6.1 Overall Approach

- (112) The Natural Features and Landscapes chapter only applies to Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes. It does not include Special Amenity Landscapes (SAL).

6.1.1 Special Amenity Landscape

- (113) Special Amenity Landscapes need not be predominantly natural, they do not necessarily have clearly exceptional landscape values and can be modified by human activity. The Hutt City Landscape Evaluation 2016 has identified four SAL – Belmont Hills, Eastbourne Hills, Eastern Escarpment and Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi. Policy 27 of the RPS states that “*District and regional plans may identify special amenity landscapes...*”. Hutt City Council has decided not to include SAL in the District Plan but to rely on the appropriate zoning and other district wide provisions to manage and maintain the identified values. Including SAL in the District Plan would require the introduction of a policy and rule framework that would apply partially to open space areas and regional parks that are in public ownership and partially to privately owned properties in urban areas. While such a framework would be able to be less onerous than the provisions for the protection of ONF and ONL, it would still need to enable the assessment of potential adverse effects of use and development on identified SAL. To achieve this it would be necessary to introduce additional consenting requirements for a large number of properties in already modified areas.

6.1.2 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

- (114) The management of subdivision, use and development within ONFL and their effects on identified values is primarily guided by the requirements of the RMA and RPS while taking into consideration the local context of the existing environment and the scale of the identified ONF and ONL. Multiple overlays and provisions are proposed in other District Plan chapters that address the identified values of High, Very High and Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas, the natural character of Coastal and Riparian Margins and the risk from Coastal and Natural Hazards.
- (115) The higher order policy direction for protecting ONFL includes section 6 of the RMA which requires 'protection' and the Policy 26 of the RPS which also requires 'protection' but expressly states the intention is not to prevent change but to ensure it is carefully considered against the given landscape values. Therefore 'protection' of ONFLs when read within the context of the policy wording is protection from 'inappropriate subdivision, use and development' which acknowledges there may be appropriate subdivision, use and development that could occur and protection does not require 'preservation through avoidance' but 'management through assessment'.
- (116) On this basis, it is considered appropriate to set the overall policy direction for the protection of ONFL at the District Plan level at 'avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects'. This recognises that each spatial area will have certain identified values and provides for an assessment of the appropriateness of the activity while retaining the direction that significant adverse effects must be avoided. It is consistent with higher order direction in enabling the flexibility to assess the scale of effects, and where they are determined to be significant, the subdivision, use or development must be avoided.
- (117) Policy 15 of the NZCPS directs that where ONF or ONL are located within the Coastal Environment then adverse effects of activities on ONF or ONL in the Coastal Environment must be avoided.
- (118) The proposed provisions acknowledge that there is a difference in scale and character between ONF or ONL and address these differences through different consenting pathways for certain use and development.

	Outstanding Natural Features	Outstanding Natural Landscapes
Criteria	Exceptional or out of the ordinary and natural components dominate over influence of human activity	
Size	Small, well defined areas	Large scale, covering varying landforms
Existing Use	Limited, mostly recreational	Existing farming and recreation activities
Sensitivity	High sensitivity to change	Relatively low sensitivity to change
Change Capacity	Low capacity to absorb change	Moderate capacity to absorb change

(119) The proposed framework of provision framework responds to the identified sensitivity and capacity to absorb change. The key characteristics and values of each ONF and ONL have been recorded within a schedule to the PDP. This allows for an assessment of any activity within the identified ONFL to determine the potential effects on the identified values and whether the activity is appropriate. This maintains consistency with the higher order direction while enabling the flexibility to assess and manage the effects.

6.2 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes – Proposed provisions

(120) In summary, the proposed provisions for Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes in the NFL chapter include the following definitions, objectives, policies, rules, standards, schedules and map overlays.

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes – NFL	
Objective	NFL-O1 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes states the expectation that the landscape values of Outstanding Natural

	<p>Features and Landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, land use and development.</p>
Policies	<p>NFL-P1 Identification of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes requires the identification and mapping of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</p> <p>NFL-P2 Customary Harvesting in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes allows for customary harvesting by Mana Whenua.</p> <p>NFL-P3 Restoration and Enhancement in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes provides for appropriate activities to achieve the restoration and rehabilitation of landscape values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</p> <p>NFL-P4 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes provides a policy framework for the removal of indigenous vegetation in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes taking into consideration the location outside of or within the Coastal Environment.</p> <p>NFL-P5 Existing Use and Development in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes provides policy guidance for existing land use activities and the maintenance, repair and alteration of associated buildings and structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</p> <p>NFL-P6 New Use and Development in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes provides a policy framework for new use and development in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</p> <p>NFL-P7 Mining Activities, Quarrying Activities and Commercial Forestry in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes provides guidance for quarrying and mining activities and commercial forestry in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</p>
Rules	<p>A rule framework that manages land use activities and buildings and structures as follows:</p>

LAND USE ACTIVITIES

NFL-R1 Customary Harvesting by Mana Whenua in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

is a permitted activity.

NFL-R2 Restoration and Enhancement Activities in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

are permitted activities subject to a number of conditions and elevate to restricted discretionary activities where conditions are not met.

NFL-R3 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

is a permitted activity where it is for certain identified reasons or activities. If located outside the CE, there is also a permitted area clearance and non-compliance elevates to restricted discretionary. If located inside the CE any clearance not provided for as permitted is a restricted discretionary activity where it meets area standards or otherwise elevates to discretionary.

NFL-R4 New Land Use Activities in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

are

- permitted activities where located in an ONL outside of the Coastal Environment subject to conditions and elevate to restricted discretionary where conditions are not met;
- restricted discretionary activities where located in an ONL within the Coastal Environment;
- restricted discretionary activities where located in an ONF outside the Coastal Environment;
- discretionary activities where located in an ONF within the Coastal Environment.

NFL-R5 New Quarrying Activities, Mining Activities and Commercial Forestry in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

are

- non-complying activities where located outside of the Coastal Environment; and
- prohibited activities where located within the Coastal Environment.

	<p>BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES</p> <p>NFL-R6 Maintenance, Repair, Alteration or Demolition of Existing Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are permitted activities.</p> <p>NFL-R7 New Farming Fences in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are permitted activities in rural zones subject to conditions and elevate to restricted discretionary where conditions are not met.</p> <p>NFL-R8 Additions to Existing Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are permitted activities where they are for existing activities and meet standards and elevate to restricted discretionary where conditions are not met.</p> <p>NFL-R9 New Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permitted activities where located in an ONL outside of the Coastal Environment subject to conditions and elevate to restricted discretionary where conditions are not met; • restricted discretionary activities where located in an ONL within the Coastal Environment subject to conditions and elevates to discretionary where conditions are not met; • restricted discretionary activities where located in an ONF outside the Coastal Environment subject to conditions and elevates to discretionary where conditions are not met; • discretionary activities where located in an ONF within the Coastal Environment. <p>Any non-complying activities under these rules are subject to an additional information requirement to provide an assessment by a suitably qualified landscape architect that assesses the proposal against the values of the ONFL.</p>
Standards	Standards that address:

	<p>NFL-S1 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes restricts the area of indigenous vegetation removal per site.</p> <p>NFL-S2 New Buildings and Structures and Additions to Existing Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes requires compliance with underlying zone provisions, restricts the height and gross floor area, requires location below the nearest ridgeline and prescribes a colour palette for exterior facades and roofs.</p>
Schedules	A schedule of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes listing the identified landscape values (SCHED4).
Maps	A spatial overlay shown on the district plan maps identifying Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes.
Definitions	<p>The provisions are supported by definitions for</p> <p>COASTAL ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>CUSTOMARY HARVESTING (HAUHAKE)</p> <p>FUNCTIONAL NEED - NPS</p> <p>OPERATIONAL NEED - NPS</p> <p>OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES</p>

(121) The proposed framework takes a balanced approach to the identification and protection of ONFL. First ONFL are identified through an expert assessment, using prescribed criteria. These ONF and ONL are mapped and the identified characteristics and values of each ONF and ONL are recorded in a schedule. Then a policy and rule framework has been developed that responds to and protects the identified values taking into consideration their location, scale and sensitivity to change.

6.2.1 Indigenous Vegetation Removal

(122) The landscape assessment for ONFL identifies indigenous vegetation coverage as one of the factors contributing to the character and values of most ONF and ONL. Therefore, the removal of indigenous vegetation in ONFL is subject to certain restrictions that are more permissive where located outside the Coastal Environment.

6.2.2 Restoration and Enhancement Activities

- (123) The proposed provisions support restoration and enhancement activities within ONFL and provide for certain activities associated with conservation and restoration efforts as permitted activities.

6.2.3 Land Use Activities

- (124) The proposed provisions for new land use activities in ONFL differentiate between ONL and ONF, and take into consideration their location within and outside the Coastal Environment.
- (125) New land use activities in ONL outside the Coastal Environment are primarily regulated through the underlying zone provisions. This approach takes into consideration the large scale of ONL and recognises the underlying rural and open space zoning that applies to most of these areas.
- (126) New land use activities in ONL that are located within the Coastal Environment and new land use activities in ONF outside the CE are restricted discretionary activities with a related policy framework that provides for appropriate new activities where adverse effects can be managed or avoided. New land use activities in ONF within the CE are discretionary.
- (127) This approach responds to the different scale of ONF and ONL and the resulting ability to absorb change while also being in alignment with the requirements of the NZCPS to avoid adverse effects of activities on ONFL within the Coastal Environment.

6.2.4 New Quarrying and Mining Activities and New Commercial Forestry

- (128) New quarrying and mining activities and new commercial forestry are generally considered to be incompatible with the identified characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and will result in significant adverse effects on these values. They are therefore classed as non-complying activities where located outside the CE (allowing for consideration and application of the s104 gateway test) while being prohibited in ONFL within the CE since these activities would always have permanent significant adverse effects on the identified values.

- (129) The National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry includes a number of regulations managing the effects of forestry especially on Significant Natural Areas and ONFL. However, the regulations enable rules in the plan to be more stringent where they protect matters in accordance with the NZCPS, including Policy 15 (Natural Features and Natural Landscapes).

6.2.5 Buildings and Structures

- (130) Similar to new land use activities the provisions for new buildings and structures differentiate between ONF and ONL and their location within or outside of the Coastal Environment.
- (131) The maintenance, repair, alteration and demolition of existing buildings and structures within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are permitted activities.
- (132) New farming fences in ONFL are generally permitted where they are located in rural zones and comply with certain conditions or otherwise elevate to restricted discretionary. This provides for ongoing farming activities of legally established farms in general and especially allows for new fences that are required for the protection of waterbodies from life stock as required by other legislation. Generally, post and wire fences are expected to have limited effects on the identified values.
- (133) Additions to existing buildings and structures within ONFL within and outside the CE are permitted where they are for existing, legally established activities and comply with a standard regulating the maximum height, gross floor area, location in relation to ridgelines and colour/reflection of roofs and facades. This framework applies only to additions to existing buildings, taking into consideration that these building form part of the existing environment and therefore the effects of limited additions should be manageable.
- (134) New built development can have adverse effects on the identified values. Therefore, new buildings and structures within ONL but outside the Coastal Environment are permitted where they are for existing, legally established activities and comply with a standard regulating the maximum height, gross floor area, location in relation to ridgelines and colour/reflection of roofs and facades. Non-compliance with the standard elevates the activity status to restricted discretionary. Where located within an ONL inside the Coastal Environment or within an ONF outside the Coastal Environment a restricted

discretionary starting point applies. Developments need to comply with a standard regulating the maximum height, gross floor area, location in relation to ridgelines and colour/reflection of roofs and facades. Non-compliance with the standard elevates the activity status to discretionary.

- (135) New built development that is located within an ONF inside the Coastal Environment is a discretionary activity.
- (136) The proposed standards relate to building height, building size, position in relation to ridgelines, and the use of visually recessive colours from the prescribed colour chart (British Standard colour chart BS5252) for external facades. These standards ensure that the buildings or structures will not dominate the landscape or detract from the identified values.
- (137) This framework takes into consideration the different sensitivity and ability to absorb change of ONF and ONL and gives effect to the requirements of the NZCPS to avoid adverse effects of activities on ONFL within the Coastal Environment.

6.2.6 Non-notification Clauses

- (138) The introduction of non-notification clauses has been considered but found to be inappropriate since activities and non-compliances with standards that trigger the need for a resource consent may have wider adverse effects and affected parties may not be easily determined. Therefore, no public or limited notification preclusion clauses have been applied to any of the Natural Features and Landscapes provisions.

6.2.7 Summary

- (139) The table below provides a summary of the requirements, characteristics and proposed provisions for Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features within the Coastal Environment and outside the Coastal Environment.

	ONFL Outside CE		ONFL Within CE	
	ONL	ONF	ONL	ONF
Statutory Requirements				
Higher Order Legislation	<p>RMA s6 (b)</p> <p>Protect from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development</p> <p>RPS Policy 26</p> <p>Protect from inappropriate subdivision, use and development</p>		<p>RMA s6</p> <p>NZCPS Policy 15</p> <p>Avoid adverse effects</p>	
Management and Protection Requirements	<p>Moderate protection requirement from higher order legislation.</p> <p><i>Protect from inappropriate subdivision, use, development</i> indicates that there may be appropriate activities and development.</p>		<p>Very strong protection requirements.</p> <p><i>Avoid all adverse effects</i> does not allow for remediation or mitigation of adverse effects and thereby puts strong limitations on additional use and development</p>	
Characteristics				
Scale / Size	Very large	Small	Medium / large	Small / medium
Ownership	Private & public	Private & public	Private & public	Private & public
Underlying Zones	General Rural Natural Open Space Open Space	General Rural Natural Open Space	General Rural Natural Open Space	General Rural Natural Open Space

Sensitivity to Change	LOW / MEDIUM Higher capacity to absorb change. Very large scale covering varying landforms and including existing use and development. Additional use or development that aligns with the underlying zoning is usually expected to be absorbed without impacting identified values.	HIGH Limited capacity to absorb change. Small well defined areas. Most additional use or development could be detrimental.	MEDIUM Medium capacity to absorb change. Areas within CE form part of wider, very large ONL. Covers areas of existing built development. Additional use and development that aligns with underlying zone provisions would be expected to have low impact on identified values.	HIGH Limited capacity to absorb change. Significant overlap with High / Very High Coastal Natural Character areas. Relatively well defined areas. Additional use or development could be detrimental to identified values.
	Provisions			
Customary Harvesting	PER	PER	PER	PER
Restoration	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS
Vegetation Removal	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS / DIS	PER / RDIS / DIS

Existing Land Use	PER	PER	PER	PER
New Land Use	PER / RDIS	RDIS	RDIS	DIS
Mining, Forestry	NC	NC	PR	PR
Existing Buildings	PER	PER	PER	PER
Additions	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS
New Buildings	PER / RDIS	RDIS / DIS	RDIS / DIS	DIS
Farming Fences	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS	PER / RDIS

6.3 Proposed provisions in other chapters

6.3.1 Infrastructure

- (140) The provisions relating to infrastructure within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are located in the Infrastructure (INF) Chapter.
- (141) INF-P12 provides a policy framework for assessment of infrastructure within the ONFL. Infrastructure is provided for where it has functional or operational need to locate within the ONFL, adverse effects on the values of the ONFL are avoided within the coastal environment, and other significant adverse effects are avoided.
- (142) For each of the 25 rules in the INF chapter, the activity status is specified for activities located in ONF or ONL, including whether or not it is located in the coastal environment. In this way the proposed provisions take into consideration and respond to the sensitivity of the ONF and ONL and their ability to absorb varying degrees of modification, as well as the potential effects of different infrastructure activities.
- (143) The general approach to the rule structure can be summarised as follows:

- Operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of infrastructure within the ONFL is enabled as permitted subject to compliance with standards or is otherwise restricted discretionary.
- Upgrading outside the coastal environment is typically a restricted discretionary, whereas within the coastal environment it is discretionary or higher. New infrastructure outside the coastal environment is typically restricted discretionary or discretionary activity, and a non-complying activity within the coastal environment.
- Most rules are linked to a suite of standards. In some cases non-compliance with these standards may elevate the activity status for activities located within the ONFL.

6.3.2 Subdivision

(144) The provisions relating to subdivision in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are located in the Subdivision (SUB) Chapter.

(145) The proposed provisions take into consideration and respond to the sensitivity of the identified ONL and ONF and their ability to absorb varying degrees of modification.

Subdivision in ONFL	
Objective	<p>SUB-O2 Subdivision Design</p> <p>refers to the provision for and protection of identified natural and coastal environment values.</p>
Policy	<p>SUB-P19 Subdivision of Land within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</p> <p>contains a policy framework for subdivision within ONFL that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides for subdivision within ONFL outside the Coastal Environment where the subdivision is compatible with identified characteristics and values and designed to manage adverse effects; and • only allows for subdivision within ONFL within the Coastal Environment where adverse effects of future use and development on identified values are avoided.

Subdivision in ONFL	
Rules	<p>SUB-R9 Subdivision of land within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</p> <p>is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a controlled activity where any building platforms and related access are identified and located entirely outside the ONFL; • a restricted discretionary activity where any building platforms and related access are located within an ONFL outside the Coastal Environment; and • a discretionary activity where any building platforms and related access are located within an ONFL within the Coastal Environment.

6.3.3 Earthworks

(146) The provisions relating to earthworks in ONFL are located in the Earthworks (EW) Chapter.

(147) Minor earthworks are permitted within ONFL, and the proposed provisions provide for earthworks for public walking and cycling tracks and farming tracks. Within ONFL larger scale earthworks are required to either manage or avoid adverse effects on identified values.

Earthworks in ONFL	
Objective	<p>EW-O1 Earthworks</p> <p>requires earthworks to be undertaken in a manner that minimises adverse effects on the natural environment, including changes to natural landforms.</p>
Policy	<p>EW-P12 Earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</p> <p>contains a policy framework for earthworks within ONFL that generally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allows for minor earthworks and earthworks for walking, cycling and farming tracks that maintain identified values; • provides for other earthworks that are of a scale that protects the identified values; • only allows for larger scale earthworks where adverse effects can be managed appropriately; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires the incorporation of measures to restore disturbed areas, minimise changes in landform and provide for tangata whenua cultural and spiritual values and practices.
Rules	<p>EW-R12 Earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> permitted activities where they are for the maintenance of walking, cycling and farming tracks or are minor earthworks; controlled activities where they are for new farming tracks or new walking and cycling tracks in Rural Zones or Open Space and Recreation Zones; restricted discretionary activities for any other earthworks that comply with specific standards; and discretionary activities where they do not comply with standards.

6.3.4 Renewable Electricity Generation

(148) The provisions relating to renewable electricity generation within ONFL are located in the Renewable Electricity Generation (REG) Chapter. The REG chapter includes provisions for REG activities of all scales as well as investigation activities:

- All maintenance and repair of existing REG activities are permitted, including within ONFL.
- Small-scale and community-scale roof mounted REG structures are permitted subject to height control standards, and are otherwise restricted discretionary including within ONFL.
- All other small-scale and community scale REG activities in the ONL outside the coastal environment are restricted discretionary subject to compliance with provisions for the number and size of structures, and are otherwise discretionary activities. Where located in ONL and within the CE or within ONF, such structures are non-complying activities.
- All large scale REG activities in the ONFL are non-complying activities.
- REG investigation activities, including within the ONFL, are permitted subject to provisions to control the duration and permanence of adverse effects.

7 Evaluation of objectives

- (149) This section is the evaluation of objectives, as required through s32(1)(a) of the RMA.
- (150) An objective is a statement of what is to be achieved through the resolution of a particular resource management issue. A district plan objective should set out a desired end state to be achieved through the implementation of policies and rules.
- (151) Under s75(1)(a) of the Resource Management Act, a district plan must state the objectives for the district.
- (152) Under s32(1)(a) of the Resource Management Act, an evaluation report required under the Act must examine the extent to which the objectives of the proposal being evaluated are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA. The purpose of the RMA, as stated in s5(1) of the Act, is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.
- (153) For the purposes of this evaluation, the Council has evaluated the proposed objectives as well as the objectives of the operative District Plan and other reasonably practicable alternatives.

Evaluation of Objectives	
Proposed Objective	
<p>NFL-O1 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes</p> <p>The landscape values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, land use, and development.</p>	
Relevance	
<p>Addresses a relevant resource management issue</p>	<p>Yes – the proposed objective addresses the relevant resource management issues for the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in this report, in particular the protection of the identified landscape values of ONFL from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</p>

<p>Assists the Council to undertake its functions under s31 RMA</p>	<p>Yes – the proposed objective sets a clear expected outcome for Council, as it requires the management of effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources (i.e. ONFL).</p>
<p>Gives effect to higher level documents</p>	<p>Yes – the proposed objective gives effect to higher order documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMA - s6(b) requires the ‘protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development’. • NZCPS - Policy 15 requires to ‘avoid adverse effects of activities on outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes in the coastal environment’. <p>RPS – Policies 25 and 26 require the identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes and the protection of their values from inappropriate subdivision, use or development.</p>
<p>Usefulness</p>	
<p>Guides decision-making</p>	<p>Yes – the objective provides clear guidance regarding the anticipated protection of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and will guide decision making through the resource consent process under s104.</p>
<p>Reasonableness</p>	
<p>Will not impose unjustifiably high costs on the community/parts of the community</p>	<p>Yes – while some landowners may incur additional costs due to additional resource consent requirements, the clearly articulated expectations regarding the protection of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and the identified values will provide certainty around expected outcomes. Any additional costs that may occur are justifiable in the context of addressing an identified resource management issue of protecting Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and giving effect to higher order guidance.</p>

Acceptable level of uncertainty and risk	Yes – the proposed objective clearly describes the outcomes sought and thereby provides for greater certainty and reduces the risk compared to the current provisions. The approach is well established and is consistent with objectives of other recently developed district plans in the Wellington region.
Achievability	
Realistically able to be achieved within the Council’s powers, skills and resources	Yes – the proposed objective is achievable within Council’s powers and resources by implementing the associated policies and rules that are proposed.
Other Potential Objectives:	
<p>Operative District Plan Objectives – Status Quo</p> <p>The status quo objectives of the Operative District Plan that relate to Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes generally refer more broadly to the protection of character, landscape and amenity values than relating specifically to the protection of the identified values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.</p> <p>The status quo objectives do not align with the intentions and specific wording of higher order documents and do not provide sufficient guidance to decision makers and the public on expected outcomes.</p> <p>Alternative Objective</p> <p>An additional objective relating to Special Amenity Landscapes was considered. This has not been pursued since the identification and management of Special Amenity Landscapes is not a mandatory requirement under higher order legislation. While the RPS states that ‘<i>District and regional plans may identify special amenity landscapes...</i>’ there is no obligation for Council to do so. Since SAL mostly apply to areas that have been modified by human influences it was considered more appropriate to focus on the protection of ONFL and rely on the underlying zone provisions to achieve the maintenance of Special Amenity Landscapes.</p>	

Summary

The above analysis shows that the proposed objective is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA.

The proposed objective addresses identified resource management issues and is in line with national best practice. The objective implements and gives effect to national and regional guidance and direction (s5, s6 and s7 of the RMA, the relevant policies of the NZCPS and the RPS) by describing the intention to protect Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. It thereby provides greater certainty to decision makers and plan users regarding the desired outcomes especially when compared to the status quo or alternative options.

The existing objectives do not reflect or give effect to higher level direction and do not provide certainty and guidance to decision makers and plan users.

8 Evaluation of policies and rules

- (154) Policies and rules implement, or give effect to, the objectives of a plan.
- (155) Policies of a district plan are the course of action to achieve or implement the plan's objective (i.e. the path to be followed to achieve a certain, specified, environmental outcome). Rules of a district plan implement the plan's policies, and have the force and effect of a regulation.
- (156) Under s32(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act, an evaluation report required under the Act must examine whether the provisions in the proposal are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives by:
- (i) *identifying other reasonably practicable options for achieving the objectives; and*
 - (ii) *assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions in achieving the objectives; and*
 - (iii) *summarising the reasons for deciding on the provisions.*
- (157) Under s32(2) of the Resource Management Act, the assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions must:
- (a) *identify and assess the benefits and costs of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the provisions, including the opportunities for—*
 - (i) *economic growth that are anticipated to be provided or reduced; and*
 - (ii) *employment that are anticipated to be provided or reduced; and*

- (b) *if practicable, quantify the benefits and costs referred to in paragraph (a); and*
- (c) *assess the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions.*

Structure of this evaluation

- (158) For this evaluation, the proposed policies and rule framework have been evaluated together. This is because the proposed policies and the rule framework form a package of provisions that collectively implement the single objective of the proposed Natural Features and Landscapes chapter.
- (159) Reasonably practicable alternatives for implementing the objectives have been included with a brief assessment and reasons why they have not been adopted.

Quantification of benefits and costs

- (160) Section 32(2)(b) requires that, where practicable, the benefits and costs of a proposal are to be quantified.
- (161) Based on the assessment of the scale and significance of the proposed provisions above, specific quantification of the benefits and costs in this report could be beneficial. However, specific quantification of the benefits and costs beyond the information and evidence outlined in this report is not readily available or practicable at a detailed level. As such, a qualitative approach has been undertaken when considering the potential costs and benefits associated with this proposal and, where relevant, in the assessment of policies, rules and other methods contained in this report.

Risk of acting / not acting if information is uncertain or insufficient

- (162) As part of the assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of provisions, section 32(2)(c) of the RMA requires an assessment of the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions.

- (163) For this topic, there is certain and sufficient information on which to assess the proposed provisions as they have been created in response to higher order direction, are well understood and are consistent with existing and proposed approaches in the Wellington region.

Evaluation of provisions to implement Objective NATC-O1

Proposed provisions

Policies

NFL-P1 Identification of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-P2 Customary Harvesting in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-P3 Restoration and Enhancement in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-P4 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-P5 Existing Use and Development in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-P6 New Use and Development in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-P7 Mining Activities, Quarrying Activities and Commercial Forestry in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Rules

NFL-R1 Customary Harvesting by Mana Whenua in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-R2 Restoration and Enhancement Activities in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-R3 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-R4 New Land Use Activities in Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes

NFL-R5 New Quarrying Activities, Mining Activities and Commercial Forestry in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-R6 Maintenance, Repair Alteration or Demolition of Existing Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-R7 New Farming Fences in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-R8 Additions to Existing Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-R9 New Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Standards

NFL-S1 Indigenous Vegetation Removal in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

NFL-S2 New Buildings and Structures and Additions to Existing Buildings and Structures in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Provisions in other chapters:

INF - Infrastructure

EW - Earthworks

SUB - Subdivision

REG - Renewable Electricity Generation

Efficiency and effectiveness

Costs	Benefits
<p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There will be no environmental cost as the provisions are focused on the protection, restoration and enhancement of identified Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.	<p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Landscapes and Features that qualify as Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes are spatially identified and their characteristics and values are

Economic

- There would be small to moderate increases in consenting and development design costs associated with the provisions managing subdivision, use and development within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.
- Additional regulatory costs for new buildings, vegetation removal or earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes that do not comply with standards, especially in rural zones.
- Potential opportunity costs for property owners for land within a ONL or ONF where development potential is restricted.
- New mining and commercial forestry activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes will experience additional consenting and project costs (outside the Coastal Environment) or generally not be able to proceed (inside the Coastal Environment) which will result in opportunity costs for landowners.

Social

- Social costs are unlikely given the provisions are focused on protecting Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes which contribute to the amenity of Hutt City

described in a schedule. The proposed provisions protect them from further encroachment or loss through inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

- Restoration and maintenance projects are supported to encourage ongoing rehabilitation.
- Future generations will benefit from the protection and retention of the identified Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes.
- Potentially inappropriate subdivision, land use activities and built development will require resource consent to ensure any adverse environmental effects can be identified, assessed and managed to avoid, remedy or mitigate their impact on identified values.
- Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes are protected from extractive industries including quarrying or mining and commercial forestry since these would have significant permanent adverse effects on the identified values and characteristics.

Economic

- Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes often apply to land that is publicly owned (by HCC, GRWC or DoC) and zoned Open Space and Recreation. There are very limited or no development expectations for these areas. The proposed

and support the enjoyment of some of these areas by the public.

Cultural

- The proposed provisions may result in additional consenting costs and constrain the extent of development where Māori owned land is located within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

provisions therefore do not create an economic loss or cost in these areas.

- Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes often apply to rural land that is remote and characterised by steep and difficult topography which in return limits development potential and contributes to the predominantly natural state and identified values. The underlying Rural Zone does not anticipate future development but instead provides for ongoing farming activities. Therefore specific permissive provisions for certain rural activities such as farming tracks and farm fences are proposed, to limit additional consenting costs.
- Existing activities and maintenance activities are recognised and provided for to avoid undue economic cost.

Social

- Existing areas within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes that are accessible or visible to the public will be protected and continue to provide social benefits through amenity values.
- Provisions recognise the social benefits of, and provide for, public access tracks.
- The balanced approach of providing for appropriate activities and development in Outstanding Natural Features

and Landscapes and managing adverse effects of other activities while protecting identified values provides social benefits.

Cultural

- Landscape areas, natural landforms and culturally recognised features valued as taonga by tangata whenua will be recognised and protected.
- The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are incorporated into the provisions through the principles of kaitiakitanga and recording of tangata whenua values within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.
- The relationship of tangata whenua and traditional cultural practices are recognised and provided for through permissive standards for cultural harvesting.
- The balanced approach of providing for activities and development in Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes where appropriate and where effects can be managed provides cultural benefits.

Effectiveness and efficiency summary

The proposed provisions are the most effective method of meeting the objective for the protection of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

The objective is focused on protecting the natural landscape values and characteristics of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes. The proposed policies and rules provide a practical and balanced framework to achieve the objective by providing stronger protection for identified values, while still enabling appropriate subdivision, use and development and managing any adverse effects, including through the resource consenting process.

The proposed provisions are the most efficient method of meeting the objective for Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes. They focus specifically on the management of adverse effects on natural landscape values within the identified ONF and ONL.

Other reasonably practicable options for achieving the objective

Status Quo

The limited provisions in the ODP relating to the protection of identified landscape values do not provide an adequate policy and rule framework to achieve the level of protection for Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, noting that this is required by higher order regulation. The relevant rules for the protection of Significant Natural Resources (which include landscape values) do not apply to privately owned land.

Include Provisions for the protection of SAL

The identification and management of Special Amenity Landscapes has been considered. Special Amenity Landscapes are usually highly valued, but their natural landscape values are not necessarily outstanding, or they are dominated by human influence. Under policy 27 of the RPS, the identification of SAL in district plans is optional but where they are included in district

plans they need to be managed to maintain and enhance their values while providing for ongoing established land use that is provided for by the underlying zone.

Council has decided not to include SAL in the District Plan but to rely on the appropriate zoning and other district wide provisions to manage and maintain the identified values. Including SAL in the District Plan would require the introduction of a policy and rule framework that would apply partially to open space areas and regional parks that are in public ownership as well as to privately owned properties in urban areas thereby introduce additional consenting requirements for a large number of properties in already modified areas.

Include more restrictive provisions

The introduction of more restrictive provisions has been considered to achieve a greater level of protection for ONFL in general. However, the explanation for policy 26 of the RPS clearly states that it is not the intention of the policy to prevent change but to ensure that change is carefully considered and appropriate. Furthermore, a more restrictive framework would not have responded appropriately to the different abilities of ONF and ONL to absorb changes or the additional protection requirements under policy 15 of the NZCPS.

Include more permissive provisions

The introduction of more permissive provisions has been considered to provide greater flexibility for landowners affected by ONFL either in general or for specific sites. A more permissive framework in general would be unlikely to give effect to the objective and achieve the protection required under higher order legislation.

The introduction of more permissive provisions for identified sites would risk not implementing the identified objective and not give full effect to higher order legislation. Essentially, the site specific management of activities can be achieved and implemented through resource consent processes, rather than within the District Plan framework for ONFL.

Overall evaluation

The proposed policies, rules and standards are the most appropriate way to achieve the proposed objective. They are effective and efficient and provide regulatory certainty. The provisions achieve positive environmental outcomes and enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being.

The proposed provisions ensure that the identified natural landscape values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are protected. The framework enables appropriate activities, manages potentially inappropriate activities and avoids inappropriate activities.

The proposed provisions align with and give effect to higher order documents and legislation.

9 Summary

(164) This evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with section 32 of the RMA in order to identify the need, the benefits and costs and the appropriateness of the proposal and having regard to its effectiveness and efficiency relative to other means in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The evaluation demonstrates that this proposal is the most appropriate option as it:

- Best gives effect to higher order statutory documents, including section 6 of the RMA, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, the Regional Policy Statement and the National Planning Standards;
- Is the most effective and efficient way to achieve the purpose of the RMA and the strategic objectives of the Proposed District Plan;
- Reduces uncertainty when compared to the status quo or other options considered through defined overlays in the planning maps supported by a clear rule framework and identified values; and
- Addresses the identified resource management issues by protecting identified Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes through restrictions on use and development within overlays identified in the planning maps, particularly in the Coastal Environment, while providing for mana whenua to exercise traditional cultural practices and ensuring infrastructure can continue to be maintained and operated.

10 Attachments

Appendix 1: Full wording of relevant New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement provisions

Appendix 2: Full wording of relevant Regional Policy Statement and Proposed RPS
Change 1 objectives and policies

Appendix 3: Full wording of relevant Natural Resources Plan and Proposed NRP Change 1
objectives and policies

Appendix 1: Full wording of relevant New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement provisions

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement	
Objective 2	<p><i>To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>recognising the characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character;</i> <i>natural features and landscape values and their location and distribution;</i> <i>identifying those areas where various forms of subdivision, use, and development would be inappropriate and protecting them from such activities; and</i> <i>encouraging restoration of the coastal environment.</i>
Objective 4	<p><i>To maintain and enhance the public open space qualities and recreation opportunities of the coastal environment by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>recognising that the coastal marine area is an extensive area of public space for the public to use and enjoy;</i> <i>maintaining and enhancing public walking access to and along the coastal marine area without charge, and where there are exceptional reasons that mean this is not practicable providing alternative linking access close to the coastal marine area; and</i> <i>recognising the potential for coastal processes, including those likely to be affected by climate change, to restrict access to the coastal environment and the need to ensure that public access is maintained even when the coastal marine area advances inland.</i>
Objective 6	<p><i>To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development, recognising that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the protection of the values of the coastal environment does not preclude use and development in appropriate places and forms, and within appropriate limits;</i> <i>some uses and developments which depend upon the use of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment are important to</i>

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

	<p><i>the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>functionally some uses and developments can only be located on the coast or in the coastal marine area;</i> • <i>the coastal environment contains renewable energy resources of significant value;</i> • <i>the protection of habitats of living marine resources contributes to the social,</i> • <i>economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;</i> • <i>the potential to protect, use, and develop natural and physical resources in the coastal marine area should not be compromised by activities on land;</i> • <i>the proportion of the coastal marine area under any formal protection is small and therefore management under the Act is an important means by which the natural resources of the coastal marine area can be protected; and</i> • <i>historic heritage in the coastal environment is extensive but not fully known, and vulnerable to loss or damage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.</i>
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<p>Policy 6: Activities in the coastal environment</p>	<p>(1) <i>In relation to the coastal environment:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>recognise that the provision of infrastructure, the supply and transport of energy including the generation and transmission of electricity, and the extraction of minerals are activities important to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>consider the rate at which built development and the associated public infrastructure should be enabled to provide for the reasonably foreseeable needs of population growth without compromising the other values of the coastal environment;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>encourage the consolidation of existing coastal settlements and urban areas where this will contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of sprawling or sporadic patterns of settlement and urban growth;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>recognise tangata whenua needs for papakāinga³, marae and associated developments and make appropriate provision for them;</i></p>
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New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) <i>consider where and how built development on land should be controlled so that it does not compromise activities of national or regional importance that have a functional need to locate and operate in the coastal marine area;</i> (f) <i>consider where development that maintains the character of the existing built environment should be encouraged, and where development resulting in a change in character would be acceptable;</i> (g) <i>take into account the potential of renewable resources in the coastal environment, such as energy from wind, waves, currents and tides, to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations;</i> (h) <i>consider how adverse visual impacts of development can be avoided in areas sensitive to such effects, such as headlands and prominent ridgelines, and as far as practicable and reasonable apply controls or conditions to avoid those effects;</i> (i) <i>set back development from the coastal marine area and other water bodies, where practicable and reasonable, to protect the natural character, open space, public access and amenity values of the coastal environment; and</i> (j) <i>where appropriate, buffer areas and sites of significant indigenous biological diversity, or historic heritage value.</i>
<p>Policy 15 Natural features and natural landscapes</p>	<p><i>To protect the natural features and natural landscapes (including seascapes) of the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>avoid adverse effects of activities on outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes in the coastal environment; and</i> (b) <i>avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy, or mitigate other adverse effects of activities on other natural features and natural landscapes in the coastal environment; including by:</i> (c) <i>identifying and assessing the natural features and natural landscapes of the coastal environment of the region or district, at minimum by land typing, soil characterisation and landscape characterisation and having regard to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>natural science factors, including geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components;</i>

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

- (ii) the presence of water including in seas, lakes, rivers and streams;*
- (iii) legibility or expressiveness – how obviously the feature or landscape demonstrates its formative processes;*
- (iv) aesthetic values including memorability and naturalness;*
- (v) vegetation (native and exotic);*
- (vi) transient values, including presence of wildlife or other values at certain times of the day or year;*
- (vii) whether the values are shared and recognised;*
- (viii) cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua, identified by working, as far as practicable, in accordance with tikanga Māori; including their expression as cultural landscapes and features;*
- (ix) historical and heritage associations; and*
- (x) wild or scenic values;*
- (d) ensuring that regional policy statements, and plans, map or otherwise identify areas where the protection of natural features and natural landscapes requires objectives, policies and rules; and*
- (e) including the objectives, policies and rules required by (d) in plans.*

Appendix 2: Full wording of relevant Regional Policy Statement and Proposed RPS Change 1 objectives and policies

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region	
Section 3.2 Coastal Environment (including public access)	
Objective 3	Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected; and Habitats and features in the coastal environment that have recreational, cultural, historical or landscape values that are significant are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
Section 3.7 Landscape	
Objective 17	The region's outstanding natural features and landscapes are identified and their landscape values protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
Objective 18	The region's special amenity landscapes are identified and those landscape values that contribute to amenity and the quality of the environment are maintained or enhanced.
Policy 25 Identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes	<i>District and regional plans shall identify outstanding natural features and landscapes having determined that the natural feature or landscape is:</i> <i>(a) exceptional or out of the ordinary; and</i> <i>(b) that its natural components dominate over the influence of human activity,</i> <i>after undertaking a landscape evaluation process, taking into account the factors listed below.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural science factors • Sensory factors • Shared or recognised factors

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region	
Policy 26 Protecting outstanding natural features and landscape values	Where outstanding natural features and landscapes have been identified in accordance with policy 25, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that protect outstanding natural features and landscape values from inappropriate subdivision, use or development.
Policy 27 Identifying special amenity landscapes	District and regional plans may identify special amenity landscapes which are distinctive, widely recognised and highly valued by the community for their contribution to the amenity and quality of the environment of the district, city or region. Any special amenity landscape evaluation process carried out to inform the identification of any such special amenity landscapes shall take into account the factors listed in policy 25.
Policy 28 Managing special amenity landscape values	<p><i>Where special amenity landscapes have been identified in accordance with policy 27, district and regional plans shall include policies and/or methods (which may include rules) for managing these landscapes in order to maintain or enhance their landscape values in the context of the continuation of:</i></p> <p><i>(a) existing land uses that contribute to these landscape values,</i></p> <p><i>(b) predominant existing land uses that are provided for within the underlying zoning, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) other lawfully established activities.</i></p>
Policy 50 Managing effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes	<p>When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to first, whether an activity may affect an outstanding natural feature and/or landscape, and second, whether or not an activity is inappropriate, having particular regard to the following:</p> <p><i>(a) the degree to which the natural feature or landscape values will be modified, damaged or destroyed including:</i></p> <p><i>(i) the duration and frequency of any effect, and/or</i></p>

Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region	
	<p>(ii) <i>the magnitude or scale of any effect; (b) the irreversibility of adverse effects on landscape values;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>the irreversibility of adverse effects on landscape values;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>the resilience of the natural feature, place or area to change;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>the opportunities to remedy or mitigate previous damage to natural feature or landscape values; and</i></p> <p>(e) <i>whether the activity will lead to cumulative adverse effects on the natural feature or landscape values.</i></p>
Section 3.10 Resource Management with Tangata Whenua	
Objective 27	Mahinga kai and natural resources used for customary purposes, are maintained and enhanced, and these resources are healthy and accessible to tangata whenua.
Objective 28	The cultural relationship of Māori with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga is maintained.
Policy 49 Recognising and providing for matters of significance to tangata whenua	<p>When preparing a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, the following matters shall be recognised and provided for:</p> <p>(a) <i>the exercise of kaitiakitanga;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>mauri, particularly in relation to fresh and coastal waters;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes; and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>places, sites and areas with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage value to tangata whenua.</i></p>

Proposed RPS Change 1	
3.1A Climate Change (new chapter)	
<u>Objective CC.1</u>	<i><u>By 2050, the Wellington Region is a low-emission and climate-resilient region, where climate change mitigation and adaptation are an integral part of:</u></i> <i><u>(a) sustainable air, land, freshwater, and coastal management,</u></i> <i><u>(b) well-functioning urban environments and rural areas, and</u></i> <i><u>(c) well-planned infrastructure.</u></i>
<u>Policy CC.4</u> <u>Climate resilient urban areas – district and regional plans</u>	<u>District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods to provide for climate-resilient urban areas by providing for actions and initiatives described in Policy CC.14 which support delivering the characteristics and qualities of well-functioning urban environments.</u>

Appendix 3: Full wording of relevant Natural Resources Plan and Proposed NRP Change 1 objectives and policies

Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region	
Objective 01 Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea	<i>Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area are managed as integrated and connected resources; ki uta ki tai – mountains to the sea.</i>
Objective 02 Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea	<i>The importance and contribution of air, land, water and ecosystems to the social, economic and cultural well-being and health of people and the community are recognised in the management of those resources.</i>
Objective 009 Beneficial use and development	<i>The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, renewable energy generation activities and the utilisation of mineral resources are recognised.</i>
Objective 010 Beneficial use and development	<i>Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities that meets the needs of present and future generations are enabled in appropriate places and ways.</i>
Objective 011 Beneficial use and development	<i>Significant mineral resources and the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities are protected from incompatible use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure or activity.</i>
Objective 012 Māori relationships	<i>The relationships of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga are recognised and provided for, including:</i>

Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

	<p>(a) maintaining and improving opportunities for Māori customary use of the coastal marine area, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands, and</p> <p>(b) maintaining and improving the availability of mahinga kai species, in terms of quantity, quality and diversity, to support Māori customary harvest, and</p> <p>(c) providing for the relationship of mana whenua with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, including by maintaining or improving Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa so that the huanga identified in Schedule B are provided for, and</p> <p>(d) protecting sites with significant mana whenua values from use and development that will adversely affect their values and restoring those sites to a state where their characteristics and qualities sustain the identified values.</p>
<p>Objective O13 Māori relationships</p>	<p><i>Kaitiakitanga is recognised and mana whenua actively participate in planning and decision-making in relation to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.</i></p>
<p>Objective O26 Sites with significant values</p>	<p><i>Outstanding natural features and landscapes and their values are protected from inappropriate use and development.</i></p>
<p>Objective O29 Sites with significant values</p>	<p><i>Significant geological features in the coastal marine area are protected from inappropriate use and development.</i></p> <p><i>(Note: East harbour coast is identified as significant geological feature in schedule J of the PNRP)</i></p>
<p>Policy P1 Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management</p>	<p><i>Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area will be managed recognising ki uta ki tai by using the principles of integrated catchment management. These principles include:</i></p> <p><i>(a) decision-making using the catchment as the spatial unit, and</i></p>

Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) <i>applying an adaptive management approach to take into account the dynamic nature and processes of catchments, and</i> (c) <i>coordinated management, with decisions based on best available information and improvements in technology and science, and</i> (d) <i>taking into account the connected nature of resources and natural processes within a catchment, and</i> (e) <i>recognising links between environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the catchment.</i>
<p>Policy P7 Beneficial activities</p>	<p><i>The following activities are recognised as beneficial and generally appropriate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>activities for the purpose of restoring natural character, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai, outstanding water bodies, sites with significant mana whenua values, and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and</i> (b) <i>activities that restore natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that can buffer development from natural hazards, and</i> (c) <i>day-lighting of piped streams, and</i> (d) <i>removal of aquatic weeds, and pest plants and animal pests, and</i> (e) <i>the establishment of river crossings (culverts and bridges) or fences and fence structures that will result in the exclusion of regular livestock access from a water body, and</i> (f) <i>the retirement, fencing and planting and management of riparian margins, and</i> (g) <i>the retirement of erosion prone land from livestock access, and</i> (h) <i>maintenance, and use and upgrade of existing structures in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and the beds of rivers and lakes (noting that Policy P35 will apply with respect to fish passage), and</i>

Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region	
	<p>(i) <i>removal of dangerous or derelict structures in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers, and</i></p> <p>(j) <i>structures necessary to provide for monitoring resource use or the state of the environment in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers, and</i></p> <p>(k) <i>activities necessary to maintain safe navigation, and</i></p> <p>(l) <i>artworks that support and enhance public open space.</i></p>
<p>Policy P14</p> <p>The National Grid</p>	<p>(a) <i>Recognise and provide for the benefits of the National Grid.</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Enable the operation, maintenance or upgrade of existing National Grid assets.</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Where the National Grid has a functional need or operational requirement to locate in the coastal environment, lakes, rivers or wetlands, manage the adverse effects of its activities on natural character, natural features and natural landscapes, and indigenous biodiversity by:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>Seeking to avoid adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on values of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>outstanding natural character,</i> 2. <i>natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes,</i> 3. <i>indigenous biodiversity values of the aquatic ecosystems, habitats, species and areas listed in Policy P38(a).</i> <p>(ii) <i>Seeking to avoid significant adverse effects of new development or major upgrades on:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>other areas of natural character in the coastal environment,</i> 2. <i>natural attributes and characteristics of other natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment,</i>

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	<p>3. <i>indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy P11(b) of the NZCPS.</i></p> <p><i>(iii) Having regard to the extent to which adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>through the route, site and method selection process, and</i> 2. <i>given the constraints imposed by the activity's operational requirements.</i> <p><i>(iv) Recognising there may be some areas in the coastal environment where:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>avoidance of adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(i) 1, 2, and 3 above.</i> 2. <i>avoidance of significant adverse effects is required to protect the values, natural attributes and characteristics identified within (c)(ii) 1, 2, and 3 above.</i> <p><i>(d) Remedy or mitigate any adverse effects from the operation, maintenance, upgrade, major upgrade or development of the National Grid which cannot be avoided.</i></p> <p><i>In the event of any conflict with any other objectives and policies in the Plan relating to indigenous biodiversity within Policy P38, natural character, and natural features and natural landscapes, Policy P14 takes precedence.</i></p>
<p>Policy P20 Māori values</p>	<p><i>The cultural relationship of Māori with air, land and water shall be recognised and the adverse effects on this relationship and their values shall be minimised.</i></p>
<p>Policy P21 Exercise of kaitiakitanga</p>	<p><i>Kaitiakitanga shall be recognised and provided for by involving mana whenua in the assessment and decision-making processes associated with use and development of natural and physical resources including;</i></p>

Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

	<p>(a) <i>managing activities in sites with significant mana whenua values listed in Schedule C (mana whenua) in accordance with tikanga and kaupapa Māori as exercised by mana whenua, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>the identification and inclusion of mana whenua attributes and values in the kaitiaki information and monitoring strategy in accordance with Method M2, and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>identification of mana whenua values and attributes and their application through tikanga and kaupapa Māori in the maintenance and enhancement of mana whenua relationships with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa.</i></p>
<p>Policy P23</p> <p>Identification of outstanding/high natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes</p>	<p><i>Policy P23: Identification of outstanding/high natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Identify in the Plan areas of outstanding and high natural character in the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Identify in the Plan outstanding natural features and landscapes within the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area) and in wetlands, rivers, lakes and their margins.</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Until areas of high and outstanding natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment are mapped in this Plan, as assessment may be required as to whether an activity is within:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(i) An area of high or outstanding natural character</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(ii) An outstanding natural feature or landscape.</i></p> <p><i>The need for such an assessment will depend on the level or scale of potential effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment and shall take into account Policies 3 and 24 of the Regional Policy Statement. Any assessment shall be commensurate with the scale and significance of the effects that the use or development may have on the environment.</i></p>

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<p>Policy P29 Natural buffers</p>	<p><i>Provide for the restoration or enhancement of natural features such as beaches, dunes or wetlands that buffer development from natural hazards and ensure the adverse effects of use and development on them are minimised avoided, remedied, or mitigated.</i></p>
<p>Policy P36 Restoring Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</p>	<p><i>The ecological health and significant values of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana will be restored including by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) managing activities, erosion-prone land, and riparian margins to reduce sedimentation rates and pollutant inputs, to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.4 to 3.8, and</i> <i>(b) undertaking planting and pest management programmes in harbour and lake habitats and ecosystems.</i>
<p>Policy P37 Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies</p>	<p><i>The adverse effects of use and development on outstanding water bodies and their significant values identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies) shall be avoided, unless there is a functional need for operation, maintenance or upgrade of existing Regionally Significant Infrastructure in which case adverse effects of activities shall be managed by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) avoiding adverse effects where practicable, and</i> <i>(b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimising them, and</i> <i>(c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable, and</i> <i>(d) where residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, offsetting is provided where possible.</i> <p><i>Proposals for biodiversity mitigation and biodiversity offsetting will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation), and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting).</i></p>

Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region	
	<p><i>A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on outstanding water bodies.</i></p> <p><i>Where more than minor adverse effects on outstanding water bodies cannot be avoided, minimised, remedied or redressed through biodiversity offsets, the activity is inappropriate.</i></p>
<p>Policy P52</p> <p>Protecting natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development</p>	<p><i>To protect natural features and landscapes (including seascesapes) of the coastal environment, rivers, lakes and their margins and natural wetlands and their values, from inappropriate use and development by:</i></p> <p><i>(a) avoiding adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment, and</i></p> <p><i>(b) avoiding significant adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment and avoid, remedy and mitigate other adverse effects of activities on other natural features and natural landscapes in the coastal environment, and</i></p> <p><i>(c) outside the coastal environment, avoiding and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating adverse effects of activities on the natural attributes and characteristics of outstanding natural features and landscapes, provided that the values of the natural features or landscapes that contribute to its outstanding status are retained.</i></p>
<p>Policy P53</p> <p>Significant geological features</p>	<p><i>The significant geological features identified in Schedule J (geological features) shall be protected by:</i></p> <p><i>(a) avoiding significant adverse effects of use and development on significant geological features; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on significant geological features.</i></p>

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Policy P109
Management of riparian margins

Maintain or restore water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and natural character, and reduce the amount of contaminants entering surface water bodies, through the management of riparian margins including:

- (a) the exclusion or restricted access of livestock likely to affect riparian margins or water quality,*
- (b) set-back distances from surface water bodies for some land use activities including earthworks, vegetation clearance, cultivation and break-feeding,*
- (c) encouraging the planting of appropriate riparian vegetation, and*
- (d) the control of pest plants and animals*

Policy P141
Public open space values and visual amenity

The adverse effects of new use and development on public open space and visual amenity viewed within, to and from the coastal marine area shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated by:

- (a) having particular regard to any relevant provisions contained in any bordering territorial authorities' proposed and/or operative district plan, and*
- (b) managing use and development to be of a scale, location, density and design which is compatible with the natural character, natural features and landscapes and amenity values of the coastal environment and the functional needs, operational requirements and locational constraints, of the Commercial Port Area and the Wellington International Airport, and*
- (c) taking account of the future need for public open space in the coastal marine area.*

Policy P145
Structures in sites with

New structures, replacement of a structure or any addition or alteration to a structure in the coastal marine area in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F4 (coastal

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significant values

sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided, except where:

- (a) the new structure, replacement of the structure or any addition or alteration to the structure is for the specific purpose of providing protection for the values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) or Schedule J (geological features), or
- (b) the structure is for educational, scientific or research purposes that will enhance the understanding and long-term protection of the coastal marine area, or
- (c) the structure will provide for navigational safety, or
- (d) it is necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure,

and in respect of (a) to (d):

- (e) there are no practicable alternative locations or methods of providing for the activity.

Policy P150 Deposition in a site with significant values

Deposition of sand, shingle or shell in a site in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided except where:

- (a) the activity is for the specific purpose of providing protection for the values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features), or
- (b) it involves renourishment for the purpose of managing coastal erosion, or
- (c) it provides for public amenity, or
- (d) the activity is carried out for the purposes of flood protection and/or erosion mitigation, and

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	<p>(e) the activity is carried out by or for local authorities, or</p> <p>(f) it is necessary to enable the efficient development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure,</p>
<p>Policy P151</p> <p>Dumping in a site with significant values</p>	<p>Dumping in the coastal marine area in a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E4 (archaeological sites), Schedule F4 (coastal sites), Schedule F5 (coastal habitats) and Schedule J (geological features) shall be avoided except where:</p> <p>(a) it is necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, and</p> <p>(b) there are no practicable alternative methods of providing for the activity.</p>

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<p>Policy P36 Restoring Te Awarua-o-Perirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana</p>	<p>The ecological health and significant values of Te Awarua-o-Perirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Wairarapa Moana will be restored including by:</p> <p>(a) <i>managing activities, erosion-prone land, and riparian margins to reduce sedimentation rates and pollutant inputs, to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.4 to 3.8, and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>undertaking planting and pest management programmes in harbour and lake habitats and ecosystems.</i></p>
8 Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara	
<p>Objective WH.O1</p>	<p><u>The health of all freshwater bodies and the coastal marine area within Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara is progressively improved and is wai ora by 2100.</u></p> <p><u>Note</u></p> <p>In the wai ora state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Āhua (natural character) is restored and freshwater bodies exhibit their natural quality, rhythms, range of flows, form, hydrology and character</u> • <u>All freshwater bodies have planted margins</u> • <u>All freshwater bodies and coastal waters have healthy functioning ecosystems and their water conditions and habitat support the presence, abundance, survival and recovery of At-risk and Threatened species and taonga species</u> • <u>Mahinga kai and kaimoana species are healthy, plentiful enough for long term harvest and are safe to harvest and eat or use, including for manuhiri and to exercise manaakitanga</u> • <u>Mana whenua are able to undertake customary practices at a range of places throughout the catchment.</u>
<p>Objective WH.O2</p>	<p><u>The health and wellbeing of Te Whanganui-a-Tara’s groundwater, rivers and natural wetlands and their margins are on a trajectory of measurable improvement towards wai ora, such that by 2040:</u></p>

Proposed NRP Change 1

(a) water quality, habitats, water quantity and ecological processes are at a level where the state of aquatic life is maintained, or meaningful progress has been made towards improvement where degraded, and

(b) the hydrology of rivers and erosion processes, including bank stability are improved and sources of sediment are reduced to a more natural level, and

(c) the extent and condition of indigenous riparian vegetation is increased and improved, and

(d) the diversity, abundance, composition, structure and condition of mahinga kai species and communities are increased, and

(e) huanga of mahinga kai and Māori customary use for locations identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) are maintained or improved, and

(f) mana whenua can safely connect with freshwater and enjoy a wider range of customary and cultural practices, including mahinga kai gathering, and

(g) mana whenua and communities can safely connect with freshwater and enjoy a wider range of activities, including swimming and food gathering, and

(h) freshwater of a suitable quality is available for the health needs of people.

Objective
WH.05

By 2040 the health and wellbeing of the Parangarahu Lakes and associated natural wetlands are on a trajectory of improvement towards wai ora, such that:

(a) water quality, habitats, water quantity and ecological processes are at a level where the state of aquatic life is maintained, or meaningfully improved where degraded, to achieve the target attribute states in Table 8.2, and

(b) the lakes are not impacted by submerged invasive plants and support healthy native aquatic plants, and

Proposed NRP Change 1

- (c) the lakes function as a productive nursery with breeding habitats of indigenous species, and
- (d) riparian vegetation is present around the perimeter of each lake, and
- (e) the diversity, abundance, composition, structure and condition of mahinga kai species and communities has increased, and
- (f) mana whenua can safely connect with and enjoy waterbodies to undertake a wider range of customary and cultural practices, including mahinga kai gathering, and
- (g) huanga of mahinga kai and Māori customary use for locations identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) are maintained or improved.

8.2.1 Ecosystem health and water quality

Policy WH.P2
Management
of activities to
achieve target
attribute
states and
coastal water
objectives

- Target attribute states and coastal water objectives will be achieved by regulating discharges and land use activities in the Plan, and non-regulatory methods, including Freshwater Action Plans, by:
- (a) prohibiting unplanned greenfield development and for other greenfield developments minimising the contaminants and requiring financial contributions as to offset adverse effects from residual stormwater contaminants, and
 - (b) encouraging redevelopment activities within existing urban areas to reduce the existing urban contaminant load, and
 - (c) imposing hydrological controls on urban development and stormwater discharges to rivers
 - (d) requiring a reduction in contaminant loads from urban wastewater and stormwater networks, and
 - (e) stabilising stream banks by excluding livestock from waterbodies and planting riparian margins with indigenous vegetation, and
 - (f) requiring the active management of earthworks, forestry, cultivation, and vegetation clearance activities, and

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	<p><u>(g) soil conservation treatment, including revegetation with woody vegetation, of land with high erosion risk, and</u></p> <p><u>(h) requiring farm environment plans (including Freshwater Farm Plans) to improve farm practices that impact on freshwater.</u></p>
8.2.4 Rural land use and earthworks	
<u>Policy WH.P21:</u> <u>Managing diffuse discharges of nutrients and Escherichia coli from farming activities</u>	<p><u>Reduce diffuse discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus and Escherichia coli from farming activities by:</u></p> <p><u>(a) capping, minimising and reducing diffuse discharges from individual rural properties in accordance with WH.P22, WH.P23 and WH.P24, and</u></p> <p><u>(b) applying target attributes states as limits on rural land use change and on the intensification of farming activities, and</u></p> <p><u>(c) progressively establishing and maintaining woody vegetation on highest erosion risk land (pasture) as a limit on land use, and</u></p> <p><u>(d) excluding stock from water bodies as a limit on land use, and</u></p> <p><u>(e) supporting good management practice through Wellington Regional Council’s environmental restoration programmes.</u></p>
<u>Policy WH.P29:</u> <u>Management of earthworks</u>	<p><u>The risk of sediment discharges from earthworks shall be managed by:</u></p> <p><u>(a) requiring retention of soil and sediment on the land using good management practices for erosion and sediment control measures that are appropriate to the scale and nature of the activity, and in accordance with the GWRC Erosion and Sediment Control Guideline for the Wellington Region (2021), for the duration of the land disturbance, and</u></p> <p><u>(b) limiting the amount of land disturbed at any time, and</u></p> <p><u>(c) designing and implementing earthworks with knowledge of the existing environmental site constraints, specific engineering requirements and implementation of controls to limit the discharge of sediment to receiving environments, and</u></p>

Proposed NRP Change 1	
	<u>(d) requiring erosion and sediment control measures to be installed prior to, and during earthworks and ensuring those controls remain in place and are maintained until the land is stabilised against erosion.</u>
<u>Policy WH.P31:</u> <u>Winter shut down of earthworks</u>	<u>Earthworks over 3,000m² in area shall:</u> <u>(a) be shut down from 1st June to 30th September each year, and</u> <u>(b) prior to shut down, be stabilised against erosion and have sediment controls in place using good management practices in accordance with the GWRC Erosion and Sediment Control Guideline for the Wellington Region (2021).</u>