

NATC — Natural Character - Coastal Margins and Riparian Margins

The purpose of the Natural Character - Coastal Margins and Riparian Margins chapter is to protect the natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins across the district. This chapter also plays a role in maintaining and enhancing public access to rivers, lakes and the coastal marine area, and contributes to implementation of the objectives and policies of the Public Access chapter.

Hutt City has some 42km of coastline comprising the inner Wellington Harbour and open coastline to the Cook Strait. The coastline varies from highly modified areas such as Seaview through to remote and undeveloped areas such as Pencarrow Head, Baring Head, and Turakirae Head.

There are also several rivers and streams (including Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River, Waiwhetū Stream, Wainuiomata River, Orongorongo River, Korokoro Stream) and two highly valued lakes (Lake Kohangapiripiri, Lake Kohangatera).

The coastal margins and riparian margins have natural character values and provide public and customary access to the coast and freshwater bodies. They also provide public amenity, recreation, hazard management, and ecological value.

Coastal margins and riparian margins are defined in this plan as land within a horizontal distance of 10 metres from the landward boundary of the coastal marine area, the bank of a river or the edge of a lake. While the District Plan does not map coastal margins and riparian margins, the objectives, policies and rules of this chapter apply to all areas that meet one of these definitions.

This chapter does not apply to or manage the natural character of wetlands. Impacts of land use and development on the natural character of wetlands are managed through other regulations, primarily regional plans.

Other relevant chapters of the District Plan

This chapter contains the main objectives, policies and rules that relate to natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins. Other district-wide chapters also play a role in preserving the natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins and protecting them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. In particular:

- The Subdivision chapter,
- The Earthworks chapter,
- The Infrastructure chapter,
- The Renewable Electricity Generation chapter, and
- The Natural Hazards chapter.

In addition:

- This chapter contributes to implementation of the objectives and policies of the Public Access chapter.
- The Natural Features and Landscapes chapter includes objectives, policies, and rules for the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes and their natural character from inappropriate subdivision, land use, and development.
- The Coastal Environment chapter includes objectives, policies, and rules for the protection of natural character of parts of the coastal environment with high, very high, and outstanding natural character.

Objectives

NATC-O1	Natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins
The natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins is preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, and enhanced.	

Policies

NATC-P1	Customary harvesting within coastal margins and riparian margins
Allow for customary harvesting by Mana Whenua within coastal margins and riparian margins in accordance with tikanga Māori.	
NATC-P2	Restoration and enhancement within coastal margins and riparian margins
Provide for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The restoration and enhancement of natural character within coastal margins and riparian margins including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The replanting of coastal margins and riparian margins with indigenous species, and 	

- b. The removal of pest plant and animal species.
2. The restoration or rehabilitation of natural character within coastal margins and riparian margins undertaken by Mana Whenua exercising their role as kaitiaki to protect, restore, and maintain the natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins.

NATC-P3	Indigenous vegetation removal within coastal margins and riparian margins
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Provide for the removal of indigenous vegetation within coastal margins and riparian margins where:

1. The removal of indigenous vegetation is of a scale that maintains the natural character of the coastal margin or riparian margin and rehabilitation planting is incorporated where practicable, or
2. The removal of indigenous vegetation is required for:
 - a. Maintenance around existing buildings, or
 - b. The safe operation of roads, tracks and accessways, or
 - c. Conservation activities including pest plant removal and animal pest control, or
 - d. Natural hazard management, or
 - e. The reduction of risk from wildfires through the removal of highly flammable vegetation near existing residential units on rural property, or
 - f. Mana Whenua to exercise their customary harvesting practices, or
 - g. Improving public access through the ongoing maintenance or extension of existing public accessways.

NATC-P4	Appropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins
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Provide for the use and development of land within coastal margins and riparian margins where:

1. The use and development is of a scale, form, and nature that does not detract from the natural character of the coastal margin or riparian margin, or
2. The use and development:
 - a. Has a functional need or operational need to be located within the coastal margin or riparian margin and no alternative locations are practicable, and
 - b. Has been designed and located to minimise adverse effects on the natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins.

NATC-P5	Inappropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins
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Avoid all other use and development of land within coastal margins and riparian margins not provided for through NATC-P1, NATC-P2, NATC-P3, and NATC-P4, unless:

1. The use and development:
 - a. Will not have any adverse effects on the natural character and amenity values of the coast, water bodies, and their margins, or
2. The use and development:
 - a. Has a functional need or operational need to be located within the coastal margin or riparian margin and no alternative locations are practicable, and
 - b. Has been designed and located to minimise adverse effects on the natural character of coastal margins and riparian margins.

Rules

Notes:

Resource consent may be required under the rules in this chapter, the rules of the relevant zone chapters, and the rules of other district-wide chapters. This includes rules that apply to overlays, such as the rules in the Coastal Environment chapter and the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter.

In particular:

- Rules for subdivision within coastal margins and riparian margins are in the Subdivision chapter,
- Rules for earthworks within coastal margins and riparian margins are in the Earthworks chapter,
- Rules for infrastructure within coastal margins and riparian margins are in the Infrastructure chapter, and
- Rules for renewable electricity generation within coastal and riparian margins are in the Renewable Electricity Generation chapter.

Unless specifically stated, resource consent is required under each relevant rule. The steps to determine the relevant rules and activity status for an activity are set out in the General Approach chapter.

Land use activities

NATC-R1	Customary harvesting by Mana Whenua within coastal margins and riparian margins
All Zones	1. Activity status: Permitted
NATC-R2	Restoration and enhancement activities within coastal margins and riparian margins

All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The works are for the purpose of restoring or enhancing the natural character of the coastal margin or riparian margin by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Planting indigenous vegetation, or ii. Carrying out pest animal and pest plant control activities, or iii. Carrying out activities in accordance with a registered protective covenant under the Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987 or Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977, or iv. Carrying out activities in accordance with a Reserve Management Plan approved under the Reserves Act 1977, or b. The works are undertaken by Mana Whenua in accordance with the principle of kaitiakitanga.
All Zones	<p>2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compliance is not achieved with NATC-R2.1. <p>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The matters in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. NATC-P2: Restoration and enhancement within coastal margins and riparian margins, b. PA-P1: Appropriate activities within coastal margins and riparian margins, c. PA-P2: Maintenance and enhancement of public access, and d. PA-P3: Restriction of public access.
NATC-R3	Indigenous vegetation removal within coastal margins and riparian margins
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The indigenous vegetation removal is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Addressing an imminent threat to people or property represented by deadwood, diseased or dying vegetation, or ii. Necessary to ensure the safe and efficient operation of any formed public road or access, or iii. Within 3m from the external wall of an existing building, or iv. Within 1m width either side of an existing fence or other structure, or v. No more than 2.5m in total width for maintenance of public access track, where undertaken by central government or local government, or an agent on their behalf, or vi. Required in accordance with sections 43 or 64 of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017, or vii. For the removal of pest plants, or viii. For Customary Harvesting, or b. The vegetation removal does not exceed a total area of 50m² per site within a 12-month contiguous period.
All Zones	<p>2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compliance is not achieved with NATC-R3.1. <p>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The matters in NATC-P3: Indigenous vegetation removal within coastal margins and riparian margins.
NATC-R4	Activities within coastal margins and riparian margins not otherwise provided for
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Restricted discretionary</p> <p>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The matters in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. NATC-P4: Appropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins, b. NATC-P5: Inappropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins, c. PA-P1: Appropriate activities within coastal margins and riparian margins, d. PA-P2: Maintenance and enhancement of public access, and

e. PA-P3: Restriction of public access.

Buildings and structures

NATC-R5		Repairs, maintenance, alterations, and demolition of buildings and structures within coastal margins and riparian margins
	All Zones	1. Activity status: Permitted
NATC-R6		Construction of farming fences within coastal margins and riparian margins
	Rural Zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The structure is a fence used for farming purposes and is constructed in post and wire.
	Rural Zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with NATC-R6.1. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in: a. NATC-P4: Appropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins, b. NATC-P5: Inappropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins, c. PA-P1: Appropriate activities within coastal margins and riparian margins, d. PA-P2: Maintenance and enhancement of public access, and e. PA-P3: Restriction of public access.
NATC-R7		Construction of buildings and structures and additions to existing buildings and structures within coastal margins and riparian margins
	All Zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The buildings or structures are for hazard mitigation activities and undertaken by central government or local government, or an agent on their behalf.
	All Zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with NATC-R7.1. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in: a. NATC-P4: Appropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins, b. NATC-P5: Inappropriate use and development within coastal margins and riparian margins, c. PA-P1: Appropriate activities within coastal margins and riparian margins, d. PA-P2: Maintenance and enhancement of public access, and e. PA-P3: Restriction of public access.