

Before the Manawatū District Council by its Commissioners

IN THE MATTER of the Manawatū District Plan

AND

IN THE MATTER of Plan Change 65

COMMISSIONERS' DECISION

DATED 5 April 2021

Commissioners:

John Maassen (Chairperson)

Alison Short

Shane Casey

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Introduction

- [1] Two elemental natural resources bracket the Manawatū District's territory; the majestic Ruahine Ranges and the western shoreline that are both identified in PC 65 as Outstanding Natural Landscapes. The latter extends from the northern side of the Himatangi to Tangimoana with sweeping dynamic foredunes and humped relict dune systems.
- [2] Between these two defining landscapes are river arteries dissecting the undulating bucolic landscape that by ancient erosion has deeply furrowed reaches with vertiginous incised valley systems and, of course, singularly the vaulting pāapa cliffs on the margins of the Rangitikei River that also has a different source than the District's other rivers. The eminent valleys in the District are identified by PC 65 as mostly Outstanding Natural Features (ONF's) except for three that are identified as Significant Amenity Features (SAF's).
- [3] These natural resources make up most of the natural resources that have been classified by the Council's landscape architect, Mr Hudson, as Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (ONFL's) and SAF's. PC 65 provides an inventory of these resources by spatially defining their extent and tabulating their characteristics and values following the One Plan's direction and the methodology instructed by the Horizons One Plan.
- [4] The three activities most likely to occur and impact on these natural resources (bearing in mind they mostly sit within the Rural Zone with little prospect of urban development) are the following uses:
 - (a) use as corridors for utilities;
 - (b) use for farming and cropping
 - (c) use for forestry.
- [5] Many of the landscapes are farmed, but the incised valleys are mostly not accessed by sheep and cattle. A good example of farming as a feature of the landscape is farming

- and cropping on the Rangitikei River's true left bank in the identified reach. The current farming practices frame the contrast of the river's terraced margins from the cliffs and river.
- [6] Because most of the features are situated in the Rural Zone, the Council initially proposed to address the landscapes as part of the workstream addressing the Rural Zone. That did not occur. PC 55 concerning utilities was appealed by utility operators because PC 55 had special rules governing utilities in ONF's that utility operators could not understand in an integrated way until the characteristics and values of ONF's in the District was settled in the Plan with consequential amendments to Chapter 3A. Therefore, the Council escalated the notification of PC 65 and did so before addressing the Rural Zone review.
- [7] The proposed ONFL and SAF inventory is found in proposed NFL-APP1 and NFL-APP2 of the Plan with photographs delimiting each resource's spatial extent that may be drilled down to the cadastral level using the electronic database of the Council. For each identified resource, there is a schedule of characteristics and values that is a compendium of Mr Hudson's assessments.
- [8] That inventory is then used in rules to protect the values and characteristics. That includes rules in the NFL Chapter and parts of Chapter 3 of the Plan concerning District-Wide matters including the Chapter 3A Network Utilities and Chapter 3D Earthworks. Amendments to Chapter 3A were included as part of the package of changes in PC 65.
- [9] The rules distinguish between the ONL's on the one hand and ONF's and SAF's on the other by mostly making new activities in the former non-complying and the latter discretionary.

Submissions and Identifying the Issues in Contention

- [10] The Council notified PC 65 under Schedule 1, RMA and it attracted 33 submissions and 8 further submissions. Ms Harris, the consultant planner, working on the project had pre-hearing meetings with a number of those witnesses. Ms Harris is an experienced planner who actively uses the alternative dispute resolution procedures available

- under the RMA to narrow issues. That practice significantly reduces the scope of matters in contention which is of great assistance to the Council and to us. Through that process, most issues concerning the extent of ONF's and SAFs were resolved.
- [11] As a result of the Council's consultation on the proposed Manawatū Gorge ONFL with Kiwirail and Waka Kotahi, Mr Hudson concluded that the effect of the new alignment of the State Highway across the Manawatū Gorge means the feature lacked the necessary connectedness and continuity to be part of an ONF. It was in the operative Plan, but Ms Harris now recommends that it is deleted from NFL-APP1.
- [12] In the next section, we address the headline issues that the Panel had to resolve by the hearing and this decision. However, Ms Harris and Mr Hudson reflected and consulted on these matters further after the hearing before giving their reply. So their original recommendations have moved on since then and also reduced the matters in contention.
- [13] Ms Harris has provided us with PC 65 - (R2), which is Ms Harris' recommended provisions after considering information from the hearing and her further reflection. That is the version of the proposed plan we will consider and the additional changes we will expressly evaluate under s 32 AA.

Issue 1 – Identification of SAFs

- [14] The first issue is whether SAFs should be identified and managed in the Manawatū District Plan under an ethic of protection from significant threats such as new farming and forestry.

Issue 2 – Identification of Lake Kaikokopu

- [15] Mr Pedersen is a farmer whose land interests alongside the Wilson family include land around Lake Kaikokopu. That Council included the land as an ONF by Mr Hudson based on analysis other than a site inspection. Mr Pedersen declined to provide access to Mr Hudson for a site visit to establish the characteristics of Lake Kaikokopu. Mr Pedersen gave evidence for the Pedersen and Wilson families about the Lake Kaikokopu's qualities and characteristics and why it should not be an ONF. The

Pedersen/Wilson families' submission represents the main remaining argument on the extent and classification recommendations of Mr Hudson.

Issue 3 – Location of the boundary of the ONFL on land owned by Nga Tamariki a Tane Society Inc

- [16] Nga Tamariki a Tane Society Inc (“Nga Tamariki”) is an incorporated society that for almost 50 years has managed a 75-hectare block of native forest at the end of Limestone Road, Āpiti to conserve and enhance its native forest cover and native fauna.
- [17] Nga Tamariki asked for a small flat area of about 0.3 hectares on the edge of Coal Creek be excluded from the ONFL to enable its members to enjoy the location with low impact structures. The question is whether that request should be accommodated in light of Mr Hudson’s assessment that follows the bush line.

Issue 4 – Do the PC 65 provisions unreasonably interfere with the right to farm?

- [18] Some farmers gave evidence about their concerns that the proposed regulatory framework would unreasonably affect:
- (a) their existing farm practices;
 - (b) the flexibility they require to change farming practices to meet changes in their operating environment.
- [19] We have captured the competing contentions here as being, on the one hand, the ‘right to farm’ and on the other the need to ensure farming does not adversely affect the majesty of the identified features and landscapes. However, that is an oversimplification since all farmers acknowledged the characteristics of ONFLs and SAFs values that Mr Hudson identified and the need to ensure they were not lost. The debate was more at about how much control of farming practice is necessary and efficient to achieve that common goal of preserving these special places and how should the Plan express the important right of farmers to continue farming.

Issue 5 – Do the provisions sufficiently allow for other activities identified in submissions as potential activities such as tracking and micro-hydro generation?

[20] Some submissions expressed concern about the impact of the proposed provisions on various activities such as tracking, micro-hydro generation and temporary military activities.

Issue 6 – Non-complying or discretionary activity status for regionally significant electricity transmission infrastructure and related policy issues

[21] Certain utilities that benefit from the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission sought a carve-out from the usual protection regime of the proposed District Plan. For example, Transpower requested a discretionary activity status for new Network Utilities in ONL's. The Department of Conservation and Forest & Bird contend for a non-complying status for all Network Utilities in ONFL's.

Issue 7 – Controls on forestry under the PC 65 that are more stringent than the National Environmental Standard for Production Forestry

[22] Under PC 65 forestry controls will be restricted by rules of the Plan that are more strict than the National Environmental Standard for Production Forestry. The issue is whether or not those controls are appropriate and lawful.

Section 3 – Evaluation of matters in contention

Issue 1 – Identification of SAF's

Summary of the evidence

[23] This issue arose as a result of questions from the Panel and some submissions. SAF's are not required to be recognised under the directions of Part 1 of the One Plan. The Panel wanted to understand the technical and statutory basis for the inclusion of SAF's.

[24] Three SAF's are identified in NFL-APP2, and they are all incised river valleys. Mr Hudson in his reply evidence explained that SAF's were identified using the same method as was used to assess ONFL's. The SAF's were identified because they

exhibited higher value characteristics than the adjacent rural land in terms of natural science, perceptual or associational values. The values of significance in each case are contained within the landscape assessment. The main difference between those valleys that qualified as ONF's and those that qualified only as SAF's is the lesser amount of native vegetation and the greater degree of pastoral land use in SAF's. Mr Hudson explained the technical justification for the identification of SAF's in [7] of his Statement in Reply as follows:

“While the geomorphological characteristic of being an incised valley remains a feature in the SAF's and some other rural valleys, it is the combination of this characteristic with the native vegetation that contributes to the distinction from general rural areas. Therefore, the retention of native vegetation is important for retention of one of the key characteristics that distinguish SAF's from other rural valleys”.

- [25] When asked whether RMA, s 6(a) had any application, Mr Hudson drew attention to the difference between a natural character assessment and a landscape assessment. He amplified that distinction in his statement of reply. At [14], Mr Hudson wrote:

“One of the main differences between Natural Character and Landscape assessment technique relates to elements of Sensory/perception, with Natural Character assessment focusing, more on the condition of Naturalness and the elements and patterns and processes that reflect that naturalness. Landscape, on the other hand, includes consideration of the aesthetic aspect of the sensory/perceptual category. An example would be the appreciation of the picturesque using aesthetic factor for Landscape as this would not be considered part of the Natural Character Assessment”.

- [26] Mr Hudson did not rely on RMA, s 6(a) in the absence of a natural character assessment. However, because the native vegetation comprised, on Mr Hudson's own analysis is a significant feature of the SAF's it seems to us that RMA, s 6(a) also provides some support for protecting these resources. We do not have a full natural character assessment to understand exactly to what extent that provision applies to our evaluative task.

- [27] Mr Hudson also considered Part 2 s 7 supported the identification of protection of SAF's. In particular the following provisions in s 7:

- (d) intrinsic values of ecosystems;
- (f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment;
- (g) any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources.

The Panel's evaluation

- [28] Our assessment of these three features following a site visit supports Mr Hudson's view that the proposed SAF's exhibit characteristics that are distinctive from the rest of the rural zone and have finite qualities as remnants of the natural incised valley systems that existed before pastoral activity dominated the Manawatū. The SAF's, contribute to an understanding of natural landform and vegetation and have both biophysical, sensory perception and associative values that justify distinctive treatment as resources apart from the usual requirements of the Rural Zone with its focus on sustaining rural production.
- [29] We accept that these SAFs warrant a degree of management as high amenity resources that preserves their characteristics and values. Accordingly, the SAFs are retained as proposed.

Issue 2 – Identification of Lake Kaikokopu

Summary of the evidence

- [30] As stated, Mr Pedersen gave evidence for the Pedersen/Wilson families in opposition to Lake Kaikokopu as an ONF because he considered it to be a lake and wetland in serious decline so that it was not an outstanding natural feature. Mr Pedersen expressed surprise at the inclusion of Lake Kaikokopu since it was not foreshadowed in earlier Council assessments.
- [31] Mr Hudson explained the background to the inclusion of Lake Kaikokopu in his reply evidence. In Mr Hudson's original assessment, he stated concerning Lake Kaikokopu:

“To complete this assessment, additional information is needed from consultation to inform decision-makers on the views of land owners, the public and cultural representatives. This information will be obtained during

consultation with key stakeholders before notification or through submissions after notification. Without this information, the assessment remains purely an expert-based assessment and lacks the breadth and depth particularly regarding Associational Factors that comes from community input”.

- [32] Mr Hudson explains that the major driver for inclusion of Lake Kaikokopu is recognition of the associational values of tangata whenua to that dune lake. Lake Kaikokopu like other large coastal lakes provided an important food resource and provided physical and spiritual sustenance to tangata whenua. Hence the Māori name of the lake. At [23] Mr Hudson in his reply evidence wrote:

“Specifically, for Lake Kaikokopu, the Statements of Association related to the Settlement Act for Rangitāne O Manawatū recognised the coastal lake network that included Pukepuke Lagoon and Lake Kaikokopu and their significance in terms of food source and physical and spiritual sustenance to the hapu”.

- [33] Mr Hudson wrote at [24] of his reply evidence as follows:

“Attachments to the Rangitāne O Manawatū Deed of Settlement Act provide details of the cultural redress related to Pukepuke Lagoon, which is vested in the trustees (of the Rangitāne O Manawatū Settlement Trust) as Fee Simple estate. Under the Rangitāne O Manawatū Statutory Acknowledgement it is stated that Lakes Omanuka, Pukepuke and Kaikokopu provided valuable mahinga kai and an abundance of tuna to Rangitāne O Manawatū in the early times. They are places where the Rangitāne O Manawatū would stop overnight to replenish food stocks and to rest while travelling between Rangitikei and Manawatū. It states that Lakes Omanuka and Kaikokopu remain in Māori ownership however the total of Lake Pukepuke is now vested in the Department of Conservation (since vested in the trustees by direction of the Settlement Act)”.

- [34] Mr Pedersen and the Wilson family refused access to their property to enable an assessment to be made of Lake Kaikokopu by the Council’s consultants. In part Mr Pedersen justified that to us on the basis that the late inclusion of Lake Kaikokopu without consultation suggests that the bureaucracy of the Council is not operating in an evidence-based way and cannot be trusted. We extended a further invitation to Mr Pedersen to provide us with the opportunity of visiting Lake Kaikokopu in order to better understand its values and assess the evidence. We did not receive any response to that request. Mr Pedersen’s position is that the source of his complaint is a lack of evidence-based approach but his lack of co-operation prevents the very evidence-

- based assessment that he recommends should be followed. Because of that contradictory position we find ourselves in the position where we must exercise caution about the evidence from Mr Pedersen concerning the characteristics and values of Lake Kaikokopu. We are also conscious of the associational values of tangata whenua and that we must actively protect those values which give rise to a relationship to those resources following RMA, s 6(g) and RMA, s 8. For the sake of completeness however we set out the thrust of Mr Pedersen's evidence.
- [35] Mr Pedersen explained that Lake Kaikokopu is within a parcel of land owned by the Pedersen/Wilson families. He explained that the Wilson family ownership extends back 116 years to 1904. The grandfather of the current Wilson family Major Bob Wilson wrote a book called "*Fifty Years Farming on Sand Country*" published in 1953. That book describes an original lake of about 300 acres of water comprising two joined lakes of 150 acres. This natural system was modified to accommodate pastoral farming including artificial drains as part of the Oroua Downs drainage scheme. A drain shown on early drainage maps as drain number 8 or "the Cut Drain" captures water from the scheme and transports to sea via the Kaikokopu Stream.
- [36] Mr Pedersen described the natural process by which the sandy bottom drains of the Oroua Downs Scheme discharge during peak flows onto the Lake Kaikokopu site where sand is deposited. That sand builds up and then forms banks and a confined drainage system, reducing freshwater supply to Lake Kaikokopu. Mr Pedersen described this as identical to the process that enabled the creation of widening the drain 27, which provides an outlet to the sea and as described by Major Bob Wilson. From these processes, Mr Pedersen claims that the future of Lake Kaikokopu is uncertain. Mr Pedersen asserts that it is now less than 4 hectares (down from 30 hectares a few years ago) and probably averaging 150mm in depth.
- [37] As a result of these processes, Mr Pedersen says the wetland is reverting to a bed of weeds. A photographic essay supplied by Mr Pedersen shows naturally sown oak trees and pampas and yellow broome on the lake bed. There is also gorse, lupin, tall fescue and Yorkshire fog.
- [38] In response to this evidence at [26] of his reply evidence Mr Hudson wrote:

"I am of the view that there remains an evidential basis for my assessment. I relied on photography taken during a flight over the site and 2012 to inform my opinion, consultation undertaken to finalise my Landscape Assessment Report, and the Google Earth images since 2005. These show a consistent lake or wetland with water still present in September 2020 (refer to the Google photos overleaf). A review of earlier recorded history referred to by the Submitter during pre-hearing discussions shows that there was always a lake there. As I understand it from the prehearing meeting, the lake was drained as part of a wider land drainage network before being dammed by a weir to create a lake for game bird shooting. The lake then lost a lot of water a few years ago when a flood washed away the weir."

[39] At [28] of his reply Mr Hudson considered that an ONF could be justified on the basis of the following:

- *Associational values as identified by the Deed of Settlement Act and identification through Statutory Acknowledgements as one of the significant sites for Rangitane o Manawatu;¹*
- *Natural science values particularly biological and ecological values in relation to connectedness for native fish spawning and waterfowl habitat;*
- *Natural science values of rarity and representativeness of dune lake ecosystem;*
- *Expressive of legibility of formative process as a dune lake part of a linked wetland system;*
- *Transient migratory values and aesthetic values of coherence and vividness (possibly limited); and*
- *Shared and recognised values of cultural heritage, natural science and rarity.*

[40] With an eye to RMA, s 32 we asked Mr Hudson for evidence on the risk of acting or not acting to protect the resources. Mr Hudson's assessment was at [30] of his reply evidence the following:

- *Potential loss of one of the District's 13 ONF's and all the values and characteristics listed in my assessment;*
- *Potential loss of spiritual associations for tangata whenua;*
- *Failure to implement the requirements of the RMA section 6 and One Plan Chapter 6;*

¹ www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Iwi%20and%20Hapu/Rangitane-o-Manawatu-Statutory-Acknowledgements-20170523.pdf

- *Potential loss of wetland habitat if the lake loses these characteristics;*
- *Failure to comply with the newly enacted freshwater NPS which includes a requirement to avoid any further loss or degradation of wetlands and streams, map existing wetlands and encourage their restoration. While this is a Regional Council matter, there are effects in terms of natural science, perceptual and associational values if the wetland is lost. This would affect the landscape and therefore the ONFL assessment. The NPS Freshwater does not result in the lake becoming an ONF but it is my opinion that the values recognised by the NPS contribute to the natural science values recognised in the landscape assessment.*

The Panel's evaluation

- [41] The Panel finds that on the evidence Lake Kaikokopu has the following qualities:
- (a) it is an important and rare coastal lake and wetland system under threat by artificial impacts on its hydrology to support farming and related ancillary farming activity in the locality;
 - (b) Lake Kaikokopu varies in size between 4 hectares and 20 hectares depending on a range of factors;
 - (c) Lake Kaikokopu's values are under threat from exotic species colonising the wetland system;
 - (d) Lake Kaikokopu has high natural science values and it is conspicuous to the extent that it is a distinctive remnant freshwater lake and wetland system once more prevalent in the dune lands;
 - (e) the lake has significant associational values to mana whenua and it is a resource marker of important historical social and cultural practices over which tangata whenua exercise kaitiakitanga.
- [42] Currently, Lake Kaikokopu is listed in the District Plan at Appendix 1A as a heritage place (reference no. W1). The consequence is that under Chapter 4 Heritage Rule 4.4.3(i) many land-use activities that would threaten the values of the lake and wetlands are managed as discretionary activities. PC 65 proposes to amend Appendix 1A by removing Lake Kaikokopu and including the Lake as ONF 15 in Appendix 1.

Therefore, in practical terms, the change in classification is not particularly material in terms of the rules that will apply to the resource.

[43] The Panel concludes that Lake Kaikokopu is an ONF of the Manawatū District and that its identification as an ONF is appropriate. The Panel also considers that managing the resource as an ONF rather than as a heritage place is more appropriate. That is because while both classifications address the undoubted important associational values of Lake Kaikokopu (particularly to tangata whenua) the ONF classification better captures the natural science characteristics and values that make the resource important and which must be considered in the values of activities that may impact on the resource.

[44] The Panel accepts that sustaining the values and characteristics of Lake Kaikokopu will require the prudent exercise of regional functions. Indeed, without that the future of Lake Kaikokopu is very uncertain. But that does not alter the reality that land use activities can also compromise the values of Lake Kaikokopu. The important role of regional functions does not diminish the Manawatū District Council's function as a territorial authority. We consider that the identification of Lake Kaikokopu under PC 65 as an ONF integrates fruitfully territorial functions with regional functions by ensuring an integrated package of controls and highlighting within the District Plan the eminence of the resource as a natural feature. We also note that because the resource has important associational values to tangata whenua and considering Te Tiriti o Waitangi under s 8, we must actively protect these characteristics and values. That is best achieved by a performance of functions by the Manawatū District Council in a way that is complementary to other planning instruments sustaining ecological function such as the Horizons One Plan and the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020.

Issue 3 – Location of the boundary of the ONFL on land owned by Nga Tamariki

Summary of the evidence

[45] Mr Livesey gave the evidence for Nga Tamariki in a statement dated 23 November 2020. Mr Livesey pointed out that the 0.3-hectare block that the Society does not want

to be included the Ruahine ONL can be seen from neighbouring farms but cannot be seen anywhere from any public location until you are within 100 metres of the car park at the end of Limestone Road. This pocket is also as Mr Livesey aptly described “*a tiny footnote*” to the landscape of the Ruahine Ranges.

- [46] Mr Livesey contended that the risk of exclusion of 0.3 hectares was very modest because the locality was tucked from the site and the land is mostly managed for conservation purposes. Indeed, the Society Rules mean that that is the primary function the Society performs in managing the land.
- [47] Mr Livesey noted that the Society is currently working on a project to place a QEII open space covenant over the entire block except for the 0.3 hectares under consideration.
- [48] The concern of the Society was that if the land was identified as an ONFL, their aspiration for a dwelling to continue their conservation activity and to continue their enjoyment of the property will be jeopardised.
- [49] During the hearing, the Panel suggested an alternative method to secure the appropriate planning outcomes other than the use of the Plan provisions. For example, a land covenant that mostly protects the pocket of land but allows structures that meet appropriate design standards and that accommodates the Society’s reasonable needs. Such a land covenant if appropriately worded would provide a more targeted and efficient legal solution to this somewhat unique problem..

The Panel’s evaluation

- [50] After the close of the hearing the Council and the Society worked on an agreement and covenant for the management of the area that the Society asked to be excluded from the ONFL.
- [51] We have considered that solution, and we endorse it. We consider the solution is appropriate recognising the significant contribution the Society has made for the preservation of the land and the Society’s entitlement to reasonable and modest enjoyment of the property in which to pursue the laudable values of the Society. We have reviewed the signed agreements and covenants and support them. They are

equally, if not more effective, than the original Plan provisions in protecting the values the plan aims to protect.

- [52] Accordingly, we agree with an adjustment to the map for ONL 1 in NFL-APP1 to exclude the 0.3 hectares addressed in the agreement and covenant between Nga Tamariki and Manawatū District Council.

Issue 4 – Do the provisions of PC 65 unreasonably interrupt the right to farm?

Summary of evidence

- [53] Mr Hudson in his s 42A report introduced the issue in a very considered way when discussing at [24] – [28] the different lens for consideration of the RMA process of identifying and protecting outstanding areas. The Panel sets out below paragraphs [24] – [28] of Mr Hudson’s evidence as an appropriate frame for this issue.

“24 *The RMA process of identifying ‘Outstanding’ areas of the landscape from the rest of the landscape does not necessarily sit comfortably in this interconnected view. Different value systems may apply, with Māori seeing an area of unmodified landscape or riverscape as offering a means of livelihood, whereas others may see it as warranting protection and requiring exclusion of any activities at all. In the Māori world view, all the landscape is relevant to who a person is, not just the ‘outstanding’ part. Similarly, separating out ‘natural’ areas from other areas has the same issues, and that is without allowing for holistic views of ancestry forming part of the layering. This is a factor when dealing within the section 6(b) structure.*

25 *I have observed similar parallels with farmers’ attitudes towards the land. Consultation has highlighted an alternative lens, whereby some areas are not necessarily seen as divisible from other areas simply because of their landscape characteristics. All areas might be seen as available to assist production, and any attempt to separate them from other productive areas of the farm fails to see the land as capable of accommodating different intensities of farming e.g. densely vegetated native gullies might be seen as winter shelter if viewed through a productivity lens. If viewed through an ecological regeneration lens, however, the attitude may be different.*

26 *Another aspect that consultation has reiterated is that vegetation within ONF areas only remains by virtue of farmers’ land management over many years, and these areas may or may not (depending on the*

area) be used as an intrinsic part of the farm's management regime. Different world views exist in our community.

27 *There is an intrinsic dilemma in this world view. On the one hand the remaining vegetation might only be remaining due to farmers past conservation practices. But on the other hand, it is this remaining vegetation that contributes to its identification as an ONF. Some farmers feel aggrieved at perceived restraints being put on parts of their land which is only being valued because of their own past practices. There is a perception of being penalised for their own good work. Yet it is the features they retained that are now being recognised for their landscape importance.*

28 *It appears to me after many visits and meetings that it is more the perceived imposition of control that is objected to by farmers, rather than what the control is seeking to achieve. This is not universal, but in many cases the landowners are very proud of their land management and results of their past conservation works as evidenced through preserved vegetation and areas of bush. However, they do not want to be told to continue to do this or to have any perceived controls placed on them. They are concerned at 'over-regulation'".*

[54] The Panel received interesting and well considered evidence from Federated Farmers and a range of submitters passionate about the landscape that the areas that they farm that fall within ONFL's or SAF's.

[55] For Federated Farmers Ms Matena expressed concern that the definition of grazing was too narrow and that a broader definition was warranted to recognise that farming practices are not static.

[56] Ms Matena went through a range of issues important to farmers and anticipated further dialogue with Ms Harris in relation to those matters in drafting the Plan Change's final form.

[57] Mr Moar gave evidence on behalf of his family that operates Braemoar Farms on Saddle Road. Like many farmers, Mr Moar was concerned that the provisions of PC 65 would impact existing farming practices. For example, on page 5 of his evidence Mr Moar said:

"It is also important that Commissioners and Council understand that we have used the land that has been mapped as part of our stock rotation. We would note that this activity must be appropriate as it was not affected landscape

being identified as outstanding and still has high amenity values. We are concerned that the Plan Change rules do not provide us with the ability to continue this existing use and it will restrict our ability to adapt in the future as farm practices change. One of the things that we have learned over time is that it is the ability to diversify that has enabled our farm to continue to be viable, both economically and environmentally”.

[58] Mr Moar emphasise that the significant costs associated with obtaining necessary consents and that these were prohibitive for farmers. Therefore it is important that the regulatory regime sit lightly on farming activities to maintain the maximum flexibility level without the need to obtain resource consents.

[59] Other farmers expressed similar concerns to Mr Moar. We received an eloquent presentation from Ms McIntyre on the farming her and her husband perform on the edge of the Rangitikei River. Mr and Mrs Clements and Philippa Williams also gave evidence on the issue.

[60] Ms Harris in reply noted that the recommended rule suite in PC 65 was introduced to show landowners that existing pastoral grazing was provided for in the District Plan. It was not intended to narrow the application of RMA, s 10 that governs existing use rights. In her right of reply evidence, Ms Harris stated:

“The Hearing Panel was concerned that the rules go further than would be lawfully able to occur under section 10 (existing use rights) of the Act. As I have stated, this was an in advertant outcome of drafting the rules. The rule framework was intended to capture the activities occurring presently on land and provide for them to lawfully continue. While this is how section 10 of the Act operates, not all land owners have knowledge of, or understand, the concept of ‘existing use rights’. I note that section 10 also has time limits associated with it, and these may also not be well understood by land owners”.

[61] In response to evidence from Ms Matena for Federated Farmers, Ms Harris stated:

“Having regard to the request of Federated Farmers, the rules in the NFL chapter could be amended to refer to farming activities as presently defined under the District Plan. This approach reverts to more general provision for farming as opposed to specific rules focusing on grazing, cropping and horticulture. Given the exclusions within the farming definition, I am comfortable that including a rule based on ‘farming activities’ could not open the way for activities which might adversely impact on the values and

characteristics of the ONFL. I understand Mr Hudson agrees with that approach”.

- [62] In light of that recommendation Ms Harris made consequential amendments in her PC 65 - (R2) to amend NFL-P5-Rule NFL-R8, NFL-R18 and NFL-R21.

The Panel’s evaluation

- [63] The Panel considers that it is essential to preserve the right to farm following existing or similar farming practices. Farmers are entitled to ensure that additional cost burdens are not imposed on them when their existing activities have not only not threatened the ONF values but in many cases sustained them.

- [64] RMA, s 10 states:

“10 Certain existing uses in relation to land protected

- (1) Land may be used in a manner that contravenes a rule in a district plan or proposed district plan if—*

(a) either—

(i) the use was lawfully established before the rule became operative or the proposed plan was notified; and

(ii) the effects of the use are the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale to those which existed before the rule became operative or the proposed plan was notified:

(b) or—

(i) the use was lawfully established by way of a designation; and

(ii) the effects of the use are the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale to those which existed before the designation was removed.

- (2) Subject to sections 357 to 358, this section does not apply when a use of land that contravenes a rule in a district plan or a proposed district plan has been discontinued for a continuous period of more than 12 months after the rule in the plan became operative or the proposed plan was notified unless—*

(a) an application has been made to the territorial authority within 2 years of the activity first being discontinued; and

- (b) *the territorial authority has granted an extension upon being satisfied that—*
- (i) *the effect of the extension will not be contrary to the objectives and policies of the district plan; and*
 - (ii) *the applicant has obtained approval from every person who may be adversely affected by the granting of the extension, unless in the authority’s opinion it is unreasonable in all the circumstances to require the obtaining of every such approval.*
- (3) *This section does not apply if reconstruction or alteration of, or extension to, any building to which this section applies increases the degree to which the building fails to comply with any rule in a district plan or proposed district plan.*
- (4) *For the avoidance of doubt, this section does not apply to any use of land that is—*
- (a) *controlled under section 30(1)(c) (regional control of certain land uses); or*
 - (b) *restricted under section 12 (coastal marine area); or*
 - (c) *restricted under section 13 (certain river and lake bed controls).*
- (5) *Nothing in this section limits section 20A (certain existing lawful activities allowed).*
- (6) *[Repealed]*”.

[65] The consequence of that provision is that any farmer continuing lawfully established activities or new activities of a similar character, scale and intensity may do so. If that activity is discontinued for a period of longer than 12 months then the benefit of that protection does not apply.

[66] The effect of the rule stream that Ms Harris proposes protects existing farming as defined in the Operative District Plan. That means that existing farm practices may continue as the rules become operative, and it is only new farm activity within an ONL that requires a resource consent. That new rule will only bite in respect of new farming activity where its effects are of a dissimilar character scale and intensity to the existing farming under RMA, s10(1)(a)(ii).

[67] Overall, we are satisfied with the approach recommended by Ms Harris in PC 65 - (R2). It achieves an appropriate balance between sustaining existing farming activity and ensuring that new farming practices are assessed as discretionary activities in ONF's and non-complying activities in ONL's.

[68] We note that NFL-P5 is a policy enabling the continuation of existing farming.. We, therefore, consider that NFL-P5 should be replaced with two policies that read as follows:

"To enable the continuation of existing farming activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features."

"To provide for new farming activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features where those activities are appropriate and safeguard the characteristics and values of the area."

[69] That provides a basis for assessment for new farming activities that will be important in the administration of the Plan given that new farming activities may be required.

[70] We note that there will be consequential minor changes including renumbering that may not be captured in the attached provisions and these can be made without reference to us under the RMA.

Issue 5 – Do the provisions sufficiently allow for other activities identified in submissions as potential activities such as tracking and micro-hydro generation?

Summary of evidence

[71] PC 65 - (R1) provided a new rule expressly providing for new tracks for farm operations. Ms McIntyre raised the question of whether the provision of tracks as a permitted activity at 1.5 metres wide was sufficient given the size of gear attached to quad bikes. On that matter, Ms Harris in her reply acknowledged there was benefit in increasing that width to 1.8 metres and consequential amendments were made in PC 65 - (R2).

[72] In section 4 of her evidence in reply, Ms Harris stated:

"The purpose of NFL-R11 was to enable new tracks for farm operations or for new passive recreation tracks within ONFL's and SAF's. The Hearing Panel

correctly identified a disconnect between NFL-R11, which applies to all tracks and NFL-R17, which only covered passive recreation tracks. As the intent is to provide for farm tracks and passive recreation, I have recommended changes to the rules to provide this additional clarity.”

[73] Following that Ms Harris in PC 65 - (R2) made the necessary amendments to implement this recommendation.

[74] Ms Williams addressed us on the potential importance of micro - hydro activity on her farm on the Rangitikei River. She asked for an amendment to the boundary line of ONF 3.

[75] Mr Hudson in reply to Ms Williams’ evidence noted the following:

“The submitter requested the boundary line for ONF 3 be moved slightly to allow for the potential operation of micro hydro facility that currently exists at the top of the side valley in her property west of Peka Road. A dam for the hydro currently exists beyond the boundary of the ONF which is defined by the edges of the incised valley and the presence of native vegetation. It is my recommendation the boundary line does not change because there is no clear change in characteristics that would cause this to be the case as the characteristics remain consistent within the area of the ONF below the dam. The proposed plan provisions include the installation and operation of micro-hydro facilities as restricted discretionary activity, therefore enabling the potential reinstatement and existing hydro generation within the ONF should the submitter choose to pursue this.”

The Panel’s evaluation

[76] We consider that the responses as provided by Ms Harris and Mr Hudson are appropriate. We consider that the tracking should be increased to 1.8 metres. We accept that micro hydroelectricity generation is appropriately provided for as a restricted discretionary activity under the provisions of PC 65 - (R2).

Issue 6 – Non-complying or discretionary status for regionally significant electricity transmission infrastructure and related policy issues

Context

- [77] The context for this issue is that most activities affecting outstanding natural features or landscapes will be managed with an eye to and under the NFL Chapter of the Plan. That is not the case with network utilities. Therefore, in the introduction to the NFL Chapter the following is stated:

“For activities involving network utilities with an outstanding natural features and landscapes and significant amenity features the provisions in chapter 3A network utility apply and prevail over this chapter. Earthworks associated with network utilities with an outstanding natural features and landscapes and significant amenity features are provided for in chapter 3D earthworks. These provisions prevail over the provisions contained within this chapter.”

- [78] That introduction is a clear signal that the relevant policies governing utilities in ONFL’s and SAF’s are the provisions contained in Chapter 3A of the Plan. To reinforce this demarcation, Ms Harris recommended in her PC 65 - (R2) an addition to the introduction at section 3A.1 to read:

“For the avoidance of doubt ‘Network Utility’ activities within ONFL’s will only be assessed under the provisions of chapter 3A and not the underlying zoning in which they are located” .

- [79] Further, Ms Harris recommended as an addition to the policy stream a guidance note after policy 3.5 that reads:

*“**Guidance Note:** Objective 3 and policies 3.1 to 3.5 apply to network utility activities undertaken in areas identified within Appendix NFL-APP1 as an Outstanding Natural Feature or landscape. With the exception of policy 3.3, objective 3 and policies 3.1 to 3.5 do not apply to network utility activities located outside in outstanding natural feature or landscape identified in Appendix NFL-App1. In the event of an inconsistency of conflict between policies 3.1 - 3.5 and other objectives and policies within the plan, policies 3.1 to 3.5 will take precedence.”*

- [80] This guidance note has two functions:
- (a) to reinforce the relevant objectives governing network utilities in protected landscapes or features are the policies in Chapter 3A;
 - (b) to reinforce that the policies are only relevant to the extent that the utility is located within a protected feature or landscape. In that way its restricted

regime cannot be enlisted to apply to the entire length of the facility irrespective of whether or not it is within an ONFL.

[81] Considerable attention at the hearing was directed at Policy 3.2 because that was the directive policy about the circumstances where avoidance was required and where a lesser standard than avoidance could be justified. Ms Harris' Policy 3.2 in PC 65 - (R2) reads:

"3.2 Except as required by Policy 3.2, avoid adverse effects from new network utilities as far as reasonably practicable and where avoidance is not reasonably practicable, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the characteristics and values identified in Appendix NFL-APP1, (Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes), Appendix 1E (Buildings and Objectives with Heritage Value) or 1F (Sites with Heritage Value).

For the purpose of Policy 3.2, reasonably practicable means where:

- a. a thorough options analysis has demonstrated there is no reasonably practicable alternative location, recognising the functional and operational need of the network utility; and*
- b. the infrastructure is of national or regional importance; and*
- c. the development does not have a significant adverse effect on the sites characteristics and values identified in Appendix 1E (Buildings and Objectives with Heritage Value) or 1F (Sites with Heritage Value)."*

[82] Mr Allwood for Powerco gave planning evidence and concerning Policy 3.2 said at [8.16] the policy should read as follows:

"To avoid adverse effects from new networks utilities as far as reasonably practicable. Where avoidance is not reasonably practicable, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the characteristics and values identified in Appendix NFL-APP1, (Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes), Appendix 1E (Buildings and Objectives with Heritage Value) or 1F (Sites with Heritage Value)."

[83] At [8.15] Mr Allwood said:

"I recommend amending policy 3.3 (now 3.2) to simplify its application by removing the definition of reasonably practicable within the policy and the second affects threshold located in part (c). It is restricted to define what

reasonably practicable means in a policy as there may be other factors which have not been included in this definition that maybe material to a network utility provider such as cost, geotechnical conditions etc. Furthermore the meaning of reasonably practicable is widely understood and I do not agree that the definition contained in policy 3.3 provides additional clarity in applying that policy.”

[84] Ms McLean gave evidence for Transpower concerning the importance of electricity transmission. Ms Whitney gave planning evidence as a consultant planner. Importantly, Ms Whitney proposed a change in activity status for new transmission lines and associated works within an ONL from a non-complying status to a discretionary activity.

[85] Ms Whitney significantly relied on provisions in the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission. Ms Whitney contended that the non-complying activity status does not comply with policy 8. Ms Whitney set out her position at [57] as follows:

*“57.1 **S6 RMA and NPSET Relationship** - The Reporting Officer has referenced Section 6 of the RMA and that the NPSET does not 'trump'the RMA.*

In my opinion, while s6 RMA is relevant, it does not over-ride or discount an NPS. The RMA provides for a hierarchy of policy statements and plans, from national environmental standards and national policy statements at a national level, through to regional policy statements and regional plans, to district plans at a territorial authority level. National policy statements sit atop of this hierarchical scheme and as the highest order planning documents, they must be 'given effect to' by regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans. In turn, regional policy statements must be 'given effect to' by regional and District plans, and district plan must be 'not inconsistent' with regional plans. 'Give effect to' is a strong statutory directive compared to other directives in the RMA such as to 'have regard to' or 'take into account'. This strong directive is imposed for two reasons:

- 1. The hierarchy of planning documents is an important concept under the RMA; and*
- 2. Superior documents that have passed through the RMA processes can be deemed to have given effect to Part 2 matters*

57.2 Based on the above, the NPSET therefore gives substance to Part 2 of the RMA. By giving effect to the NPSET, PPC65 will achieve the

purpose of the RMA. The statutory purpose of a national policy statement is to state objectives and policies for ‘matters of national significance’ that are relevant to achieving the purpose of the RMA.”

[86] Ms Harris in reply addressed this issue in detail and we set out her reply:

“7 Non-Complying status for ONL

The issue of activity status remains a key matter of contention between the parties. Transpower has requested Discretionary activity status for new Network Utilities in the two identified Outstanding Natural Landscapes, while the Department of Conservation and Forest and Bird seek Non-Complying activity status for all new Network Utilities in ONFLs the District.

I have already explained my reasons for applying Non-Complying Activity status to new activities within the two Outstanding Landscapes in the District in both the s32 and s42A Reports. I remain of the opinion that my approach is sound.

I provide the following additional points for consideration by the Hearing Panel.

In drafting the Plan Change I considered a variety of information.

- 1. The information provided by Mr Hudson where he specifically identified two outstanding landscapes and 15 outstanding features. Mr Hudson’s assessment emphasises the importance of the two Outstanding Natural Landscapes and their characteristics and values. Mr Hudson has outlined his approach to the identification of ONFLs. I note that no submitters have questioned the identification of outstanding landscapes compared with outstanding features — only activity classification.*
- 2. The direction in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS). The avoid direction set out within Policy 15 of the NZCPS is clear. I consider that the Non-Complying Activity status for activities within the Coastal Outstanding Natural Landscape is appropriate and reflects the direction of the NZCPS. I do not consider that it is appropriate to have a rule for the Coastal ONL that is different to the Ruahine Ranges ONL.*
- 3. The direction within the RPS section of the One Plan. Chapter 6 of the One Plan is very clear about the protection of ONL and provides for a cascading framework for management of effects within these areas. Care has been taken to ensure that the One Plan approach to ONFL has been given effect to. Chapter 3 of the One Plan is also relevant when considering the submissions of the network utilities. Discussion was*

held during the hearing on the direction about regionally significant infrastructure (RSI) and the importance of recognising the benefits RSI provide. I consider that the provisions of Chapter 3A and the NFL Chapter give effect to the RPS Chapter 3 through the specific policy I have recommended. There is no hierarchy between Chapter 3 and Chapter 6 of the One Plan. Both need to be balanced when considering proposals. I also do not consider that recognising the benefits of RSI or the National Grid requires a lesser activity status as suggested by Ms Whitney. As I have explained across the section 32 and 42A reports, changes have been made over time, in response to appeals on PC55 and submissions on this plan change, to ensure there is a clear policy pathway for regionally significant infrastructure.

4. The direction within the NPSET for the National Grid. I have had particular regard to this NPS and have included clear policies to address its requirements. I note that Transpower support the policies with the Plan Change as recommended; and the only issue remains with the activity status for its activities within the ONL.

I have provided a clear pathway in the policies for considering a Non-Complying Activity for the two ONL. As I discuss further below, I do not consider such enabling policies would necessarily be appropriate if a discretionary status was to be adopted in response to submissions. Noting that the parties have agreed that reference to the need for a thorough consideration of route assessment be reflected in the policies, I remain of the opinion that the provisions as recommended are appropriate.

Both Transpower and Powerco have referred to the fact that they may not be in a position to avoid locating transmission lines within an Outstanding Landscape (noting specific reference to future windfarms). I have written specific policies that provide a clear pathway to be considered for the National Grid and other RSI.

I consider that the approach I have taken to the recommended activity classifications within ONL is consistent with best planning practice. Development within the two ONL could result in adverse effects but with careful management those effects do not warrant those activities being prohibited. A non-complying activity status recognises that the two ONL are of a scale and amenity that development could have a significant effect on the characteristics and values. I have recommended a specific policy framework that provides for the overall direction of the NPSET, and the recommended changes to policy 3.3 (now policy 3.2) provide for other RSI. As Ms Whitney noted in her evidence, the various national direction provisions do not have a hierarchy. As I noted earlier, neither does the RPS directions. The provisions I have drafted seek to recognise the different higher order requirements, while ensuring a consistent approach to managing the two ONL.

The Hearing Panel also asked for a view on the policies proposed and if the Non-Complying Rule was amended to be discretionary. As outlined above, I still recommend a Non-Complying Activity status for new Network Utilities within ONLs.

Under PC55 all new Network Utility activities in ONFLs were a Non-Complying Activity. As a result of PC65 this was changed so that new Network Utilities in Features area Discretionary Activity, and the two Landscapes are Non-Complying Activity. As discussed during the hearing by Mr Hudson, he purposively identified the two Landscapes as they hold different values than the ONFs. Given concerns raised by the parties on the Non-Complying Activity Status, during the preparation of the NFL Plan Change, specific policies were added to Chapter 3A to provide a clear policy pathway for Network Utilities for the two Landscapes identified in the District. In the event activity status changed to a Discretionary Activity, then I question whether the enabling policies that were introduced directly for assessing a Non-Complying Activity should remain.”

The Panel’s evaluation of Policy 3.2

- [87] The Panel has sympathy for Mr Allwood’s concern that Policy 3.2 lacks clarity and attempts to confine matters relevant to an assessment of the standard ‘reasonably practicable’.
- [88] We consider Policy 3.2 creates confusion since ‘reasonably practicable’ is a threshold limit that must be shown after considering the opportunities, constraints and trade-offs. However the definition in Policy 3.2 addresses other matters such as:
- (a) the thoroughness of the assessment;
 - (b) the importance of the resource;
 - (c) the scale of effects.
- [89] In addition, Policy 3.2 is not ‘clean’ because different ideas apply to ONFL’s compared with the other items such as Buildings and Objects with Heritage Values.
- [90] In the case of Sites with Heritage Values and Buildings and Objects with Heritage Values it is possible that work can be carried out in a way that is not harmful. It will not be large transmission lines or infrastructure corridors affecting these resources. It is the

risk of significant infrastructure in ONFL that require special attention in policy considering NPSET.

[91] To address the situation, we divide the policy into two parts as follows:

“3.2 To avoid new utilities in Buildings and Objects of Heritage Value in Appendix 1E and Sites with Heritage Value in Appendix 1F, unless:

(a) avoidance is not reasonably practicable; and

(b) there are no significant adverse effects on the site.

“3.3 To avoid utilities in Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features and in Appendix NFL-APP1 unless that infrastructure is of national or regional importance and only then if:

(a) avoidance is not reasonably practicable and that is demonstrated by a thorough options analysis, recognising the functional and operational need of the Network Utility; and

(b) adverse effects are remedied or mitigated using best practicable options; and

(c) Policy 3.1 is satisfied.”

[92] Proposed Policy 3.3(c) is required to meet the direction of the One Plan and we do not intend to relitigate where that RPS got to on this subject.

The Panel’s evaluation of the non-complying activity status for any new utilities including new transmission lines under proposed rule 3A.4.6

[93] Where a resource is managed under the Plan objectives for protection, it is generally appropriate that the jurisdictional gateway applies to activities that have the potential to threaten those characteristics and values. That is because in the absence of that gateway the Plan signals all proposals are open for consideration on their merits under a section 104 consideration and evaluated against the provisions including policies. Such an open door would not efficiently and effectively deliver on the Plan’s protection framework in both objectives and policies under RMA s 32. The statutory assessment in RMA, s 104D provides a useful signal of the Plan’s intention by a coherent cascade from objectives to policies and rules. Also the gateway provides a useful barrier to encourage careful attention in the design and development of any proposal.

- [94] Two potential problems arise with spatially extensive infrastructure such as transmission lines that may touch or pass protected resources because it is functionally necessary to do so. The policy framework and activity classification can trigger what is perceived to be a rather hostile regulatory assessment for the entire proposal
- [95] One problem, therefore, for utility operators is that non-complying status triggered by the use of an ONL applies to the entire development following the bundling principle. Therefore the entire proposal has to pass the gateway test. We accept that for the first gateway this can present a problem for large projects. However, the second gateway is not particularly hostile and all that is required is to demonstrate that the proposal is not “contrary” to in a sense of ‘repugnant’ to the objectives and policies of the Plan. That problem can be more imaginary than real where there is a well-constructed plan. Special attention to the word in s 104(1)(b) “*relevant*” because relevance is crucial to making an assessment both under s 104 and s 104D. It is not correct to say that all policies in the Plan are equal when it comes to their relevance in assessing consistency under s 104D or the evaluation under s 104.
- [96] The way in which the provisions in PC 65 are worded with the additional guidance notes, it is abundantly plain that the policies relating to ONL’s only apply to the extent that the infrastructure is within an ONL. In that way a properly directed planning analysis of the second gateway test in s 104D would involve:
- (a) assessing whether or not that part of the proposal with an ONL or is consistent with the objectives and policies applying to those resources;
 - (b) assessment of consistency with other policies that apply to resources that are not ONL’s but which are affected by the proposal.
- [97] The second difficulty identified by utility operators with the non-complying classification is that in assessing the relevant objectives and policies under the second gateway, consideration may be given not just to the policies in Chapter 3A but the policies that apply to the NFL-Chapter. However, that risk is diminished by the clear direction in the introduction that for the purpose of assessment the provisions of Chapter 3A prevail.

[98] Therefore, the Panel’s view is that the non-complying status problems are overcome by the careful arrangement of policies and the careful guidance in Proposed Plan Change 65. Correctly interpreted the Plan does not present the problems that Transpower suggests. Further, all policies can be interpreted in a coherent way and reconciled so as to accord with the requirements of RMA s 74.

[99] We, therefore, conclude that rule 3A.4.6 should remain.

Issue 7 – Controls on forestry under the PC 65 that are more stringent than the National Environmental Standard for Production Forestry

Context

[100] PC 65 as notified made afforestation of SAFs a non-complying activity. The aim was to protect those landscapes from production forestry alongside rules governing vegetation clearance.

[101] Production forestry is governed by a National Environmental standard (NES) called the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards of Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017. For convenience we use the acronym “RMNEPFS”. That RMNEPFS regulates plantation forestry including afforestation, earthworks and harvesting by setting activity classifications and performance conditions and the scope of discretions.

[102] RMA, s 43B states:

“43B Relationship between national environmental standards and rules or consents

(1) *A rule or resource consent that is more stringent than a national environmental standard prevails over the standard, if the standard expressly says that a rule or consent may be more stringent than it.*

(2) *For the purposes of subsection (1),—*

(a) *a rule is more stringent than a standard if it prohibits or restricts an activity that the standard permits or authorises:*

(b) *a resource consent is more stringent than a standard if it imposes conditions on an activity that the standard does not impose or authorise”.*

[103] During the course of the hearing the Panel queried whether or not PC 65 (N) enabled more stringent control than the RMNEPFS.

[104] Ms Harris in her reply acknowledges that PC 65 was incorrect in relying on Regulation 6(2) that provides for more restrictive rules within plans for significant natural areas. SAFs are not significant natural areas as defined in Regulation 3. Equally SAFs are not outstanding natural features all landscapes for the purpose of Regulation 6(2)(a).

[105] Ms Harris contended in her reply that SAFs qualify as visual amenity landscapes for the purpose of Regulation 3. In such landscapes, afforestation is not a permitted activity by virtue of Regulation 13. Regulation 15(4) provides for afforestation in visual amenity landscapes as a controlled activity with control reserved over the effects on visual amenity values.

[106] Following that suite of provisions Ms Harris recommended changes so that the District Plan essentially triggers the provisions of the controlled activity rule in RMNEPFS. In that way, s 43(b) is not engaged.

Evaluation by the Panel of issue 7

[107] Afforestation is defined in Regulation 3 as follows:

“afforestation—

(a) *means planting and growing plantation forestry trees on land where there is no plantation forestry and where plantation forestry harvesting has not occurred within the last 5 years; but*

(b) *does not include vegetation clearance from the land before planting”.*

[108] Regulation 3 defines a visual amenity landscape in this way:

“visual amenity landscape means a landscape or landscape feature that—

(a) *is identified in a district plan as having visual amenity values, however described; and*

- (b) *is identified in the policy statement or plan by its location, including by a map, a schedule, or a description of the area”.*

[109] Regulation 13 states:

“13 Permitted activity condition: visual amenity landscapes

Afforestation must not occur within a visual amenity landscape if rules in the relevant plan restrict plantation forestry activities within that landscape”.

[110] Regulation 15(3) & 4 reads:

“15 Controlled activity

Territorial authority

- (3) *Afforestation is a controlled activity if regulation 13 is not complied with.*
- (4) *For the purpose of subclause (3), control is reserved over the effects on the visual amenity values of the visual amenity landscape, including any future effects from plantation forestry activities”.*

[111] We agree with Ms Harris that SAFs are a visual amenity landscape. We agree with Ms Harris that with the amended provisions the District Plan is neither more lenient nor more stringent than the RMNEPFS. It is useful to have a rule in the Plan that reflects the requirement of the Standard as a resource for the public.

Other matters

[112] There were a range of other matters that were addressed of a minor nature. Also, matters of agreement that were reached through negotiation by Ms Harris. We do not set those matters out here but record that they were not sufficiently contentious to warrant attention in this decision.

[113] Under RMA, s 32AA we are required to undertake an evaluation for any changes since notification of the plan change. We adopt the analysis of Ms Harris in relation to PC 65 - (R1) concerning the changes made at that stage that remain. Regarding the further changes in PC 65 - (R2), our evaluation comprises the material comprised in Mr Hudson’s reply evidence from the evidence of Submitters and the evaluation contained in this decision.

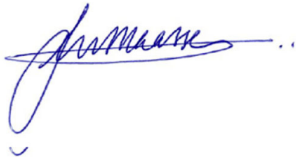
Conclusion

[114] PC 65 is an important piece of work, and it implements directions in the Horizons One Plan concerning outstanding natural features and landscapes.

[115] In completing our task, we have been greatly assisted by all the officers, consultants and submitters contributions, and we extend our thanks for that.

[116] We have attached as Appendices the relevant sections of the Plan that reflect our decision and that are referred to as PC (C) Decision.

Dated 5 April 2021



John Maassen (Chair)
Commissioner



Alison Short
Commissioner



Shane Casey
Commissioner

Appendix 1 - NFL Chapter (PC(C) Decision) showing decision

NFL - NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

Introduction

The Manawatū District is home to a range of natural features and landscapes worthy of recognition and protection. As landscapes they contribute to the identity of the Manawatū, and particularly for those people who reside in and visit the Manawatū.

The District's landscapes extend from the expansive and densely vegetated Ruahine Ranges through to the deep, meandering river valleys and terraces of the various rivers within the District through to the undeveloped coastal foredunes of the Manawatū coastline.

The purpose of this chapter is to:

- a. Recognise and protect outstanding natural features and landscapes (ONFLs) from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. (Section 6(b) of the Act).
- b. Recognise those areas of the District that do not meet the criteria for Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes but have amenity values and characteristics that distinguish them from the wider rural area as Significant Amenity Features. (Section 7(c) of the Act).
- c. Respond to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and the One Plan, including the Regional Policy Statement requirements to identify and protect ONFLs.

Council has identified two (2) Outstanding Natural Landscapes, thirteen (13) Outstanding Natural Features, and three (3) Significant Amenity Features. Each ONFL has its own characteristics and values which justify their classification as outstanding and make their use, development and protection important when considering future management of these areas. Each area is mapped as an overlay.

For activities involving Network Utilities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features the provisions in Chapter 3A Network Utilities apply and prevail over this chapter. Earthworks associated with network utilities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks. These provisions prevail over the provisions contained within this chapter.

Objectives

NFL-O1

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are identified within the Manawatū District.

Relevant policies 1, 2

NFL-O2

The characteristics and values of the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Relevant policies 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,13

NFL-O3

The characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are protected from the fragmentation of ownership arising from subdivision.

Relevant policies 14, 15

NFL-O4

Enhance the characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and maintain or enhance Significant Amenity Features.

Relevant policies 16, 17, 18

Policies

NFL-P1

To identify the characteristics and values, and spatially define Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes consistent with the following criteria:

- a. Natural science factors
- b. Aesthetic values
- c. Expressiveness (Legibility)
- d. Transient values
- e. Shared and recognised values
- f. Cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua
- g. Historic heritage values.

NFL-P2

To identify and spatially define Significant Amenity Features.

NFL-P3

To avoid inappropriate use and development within Outstanding Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 which adversely affects the identified values and characteristics of the areas, including:

- a. The extensive unbuilt coastal strip along the Manawatū Coastline Outstanding Natural Landscape.
- b. The unmodified and continuous indigenous vegetation values and the ridges and hilltops of the Ruahine Ranges Outstanding Natural Landscape.

NFL-P4

To restrict the use and development within Outstanding Natural Features identified in NFL-APP1 except where it is demonstrated that the identified characteristics and values of the area are protected and maintained.

NFL-P5

To enable the continuation of farming activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features.

NFL-P6

To provide for new farming activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features where those activities are appropriate and safeguard the characteristics and values of the area.

NFL-P7

To avoid significant adverse cumulative effects from use and development on the characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P8

Except as required by NFL-P7, avoid adverse effects on Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes as far as reasonably practicable and where avoidance is not reasonably practicable, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P9

To enable passive recreation, conservation and customary activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 where this does not adversely affect the characteristics and values of those areas.

NFL-P10

To avoid the development of new buildings or structures within Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P11

To restrict the development of new buildings or structures within an Outstanding Natural Feature where these are visible from a public space and create a visual intrusion or have an adverse effect on characteristics and values of the feature identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P12

To restrict the removal of indigenous vegetation from Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P13

To restrict the introduction of exotic vegetation species, including forestry, within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 and Significant Amenity Features identified in NFL-APP2.

NFL-P14

To avoid subdivision within Outstanding Natural Landscapes except where the fragmentation of land does not significantly affect the characteristics and values of the Landscape identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P15

To restrict subdivision within Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Amenity Features where the fragmentation of land would adversely affect the characteristics and values of the Feature identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P16

To protect existing indigenous vegetation.

NFL-P17

To encourage restoration and planting with locally sourced indigenous species appropriate to the ecological area within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features.

NFL-P18

To restrict use and development within Significant Amenity Features to those activities which do not adversely affect the characteristics and values identified in NFL-APP2.

Rules

Unless otherwise stated, rules in this chapter apply to all activities within the areas identified as being Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and Significant Amenity Features as spatially defined in Appendix NFL-APP1 and NFL-APP2. For activities involving Network Utilities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, the more specific provisions in Chapter 3A Network Utilities apply. Earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks.

Permitted Activities

The following activities are Permitted Activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features:

NFL-R1 The use and maintenance of existing tracks and walkways for passive recreation, conservation, and customary activities within public areas.

Guidance Note: The provisions in this Plan do not allow public access across privately owned land. Permission of the landowner is required when wanting to access areas through private land.

NFL-R2 Planting and restoration of indigenous vegetation within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features using indigenous species appropriate to the ecological area.

NFL-R3 Removal and control of weeds and pests, including wildling pines.

NFL-R4 Fencing off of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

NFL-R5 Indigenous vegetation clearance only for the purpose of:

- 1) Clearance of up to 1m from a fence designed for the exclusions of stock and or pests
- 2) The gathering of plants in accordance with Māori customs and traditions
- 3) Removal of vegetation that endangers human life, existing structures or network utilities
- 4) Maintaining existing roads, tracks or fences and the clearance is within 1m either side of that road, track or fence.

Guidance Note: Trimming of vegetation near electricity transmission lines shall comply with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.

NFL-R6 Maintenance of existing lawfully established structures as at 7 February 2020.

NFL-R7 Construction and use of buildings and structures within the Totara Reserve Regional Park no greater than 50m² in area.

NFL-R8 Continuation of existing farming within Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features and Significant Amenity Features as at 7 February 2020.

NFL-R9 Construction and use of new farm buildings and structures within the Rangitīkei River Outstanding Natural Feature that are no higher than 4m, no greater than 60m², and setback from any property boundary by 1.5m.

NFL-R10 Construction, use and maintenance of tracks for the purpose of farm tracks and passive recreation up to 1.8m wide within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape or a Significant Amenity Feature.

NFL-R11 Earthworks associated with a permitted activity listed in NFL-R1 – NFL-R10 above and consistent with Rule 3D.4.2.

NFL-R12 Temporary Military Training Activities where no indigenous vegetation disturbance or clearance, or earthworks is undertaken.

Guidance Notes:

1. Except as provided for in NFL-R11, earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are specifically provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks.
2. Earthworks, gravel extraction, vegetation clearance and activities affecting indigenous biodiversity habitat are also regulated by the Manawatū Whanganui Regional Council and a resource consent may be required under the rules of the One Plan.

Controlled Activities

The following activities are Controlled Activities

NFL-R13 New Plantation Forestry within a Significant Amenity Feature

For this activity the Council has controlled its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MC1** The effects on the visual amenity values of the Significant Amenity Feature, including any future effects from plantation forestry activities.

Restricted Discretionary Activities

The following activities are Restricted Discretionary Activities:

NFL-R14 Development, including ancillary earthworks, consistent with the Reserve Act status or relevant Management Plan for the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.

For these activities, the Council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MD1** Effects, including cumulative effects, on the characteristics and values of the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape identified in NFL-APP1.
- MD2** Bulk and location of any buildings
- MD3** Sighting and visibility of buildings from public viewing locations.

NFL-R15 The extraction of gravel from the river beaches adjacent to the Rangitīkei River and the subsequent stockpiling on the lower terraces of Rangitīkei River Outstanding Natural Feature.

The Council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MD4** Effects, including cumulative effects, on the characteristics and values of the Rangitīkei River Outstanding Natural Feature.
- MD5** The impacts of any gravel extraction on cultural values associated with the Rangitīkei River, including Mauri of the River.

NFL-R16 Domestic scale micro hydro activities within an Outstanding Natural Landscape or Feature is a Restricted Discretionary Activity.

The Council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MD6** Effects, including cumulative effects, on the characteristics and values of the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape identified in NFL-APP1.

Discretionary Activities

The following activities are Discretionary Activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Significant

Amenity Features:

- NFL-R17** Subdivision within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Significant Amenity Feature as identified in NFL-APP1 or NFL-APP2.
- NFL-R18** Construction, alteration or addition of buildings, or new farm tracks and passive recreation tracks greater than 1.8m wide within an Outstanding Natural Feature and Significant Amenity Feature as identified in NFL-APP1 or NFL-APP2.
- NFL-R19** New farming within Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Amenity Features.

Non-Complying Activities

The following activities are Non-Complying Activities:

- NFL-R20** Construction, alteration or addition of buildings within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1.
- NFL-R21** Subdivision within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1.
- NFL-R22** New farming within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1.
- NFL-R23** New Plantation Forestry within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.
- NFL-R24** Any activity not otherwise provided for as a Permitted, Restricted Discretionary or Discretionary Activity.

Guidance Note

1. Except as provided for by Rule NFL-R9, earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks.
2. The National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (2017) also applies to activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and a resource consent may also be required under those provisions.

Appendix 2 - NFL APP1 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes Tables (PC (C) Decision)

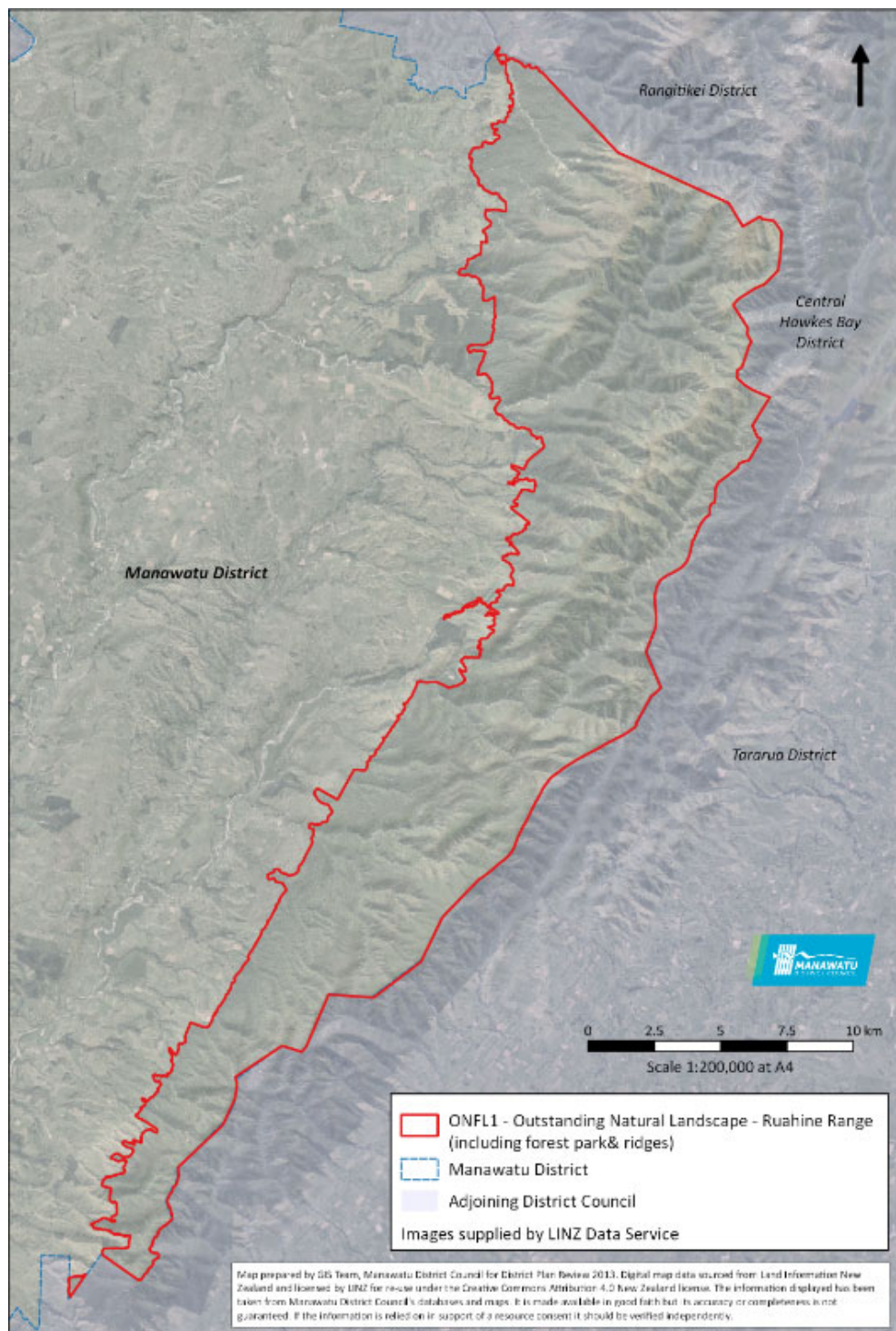
NFL - APP1 – OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

NFL – APP1 describes the characteristics and values of all listed Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes that have been identified for the Manawatū District.

The intention of identifying individual characteristics and values within NFL-APP1 of the Manawatū District Plan is to provide support to plan users in determining the extent of a proposed activity’s potential effects within an Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape.

It is important for plan users to note that Iwi accounts of tribal affiliations may vary throughout NFL-APP1. This reflects the different narratives of Iwi for the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape. The Council has intentionally preserved each account to ensure the integrity of Iwi information provided is maintained.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE 1 – RUAHINE RANGE



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	The Ruahine Range is the dominant geographical landmark in the Manawatū District comprising a sequence of mesozoic greywackes of the Torlesse terrane. Representative part of the axial range that extends along the Alpine Fault from Westland to Bay of Plenty. Originated through uplift that has occurred through the meeting of the Pacific and Australian tectonic plates. Folded landscape with patchwork of deeply incised drainage catchments. Ruahine Range has been the subject of geological research, such as the PhD of Dr M Marden on structure and lithology of the Torlesse terrane. Unique as the oldest and most dominant geological landmark in the Manawatū District.
	Biological/Ecological	The Ruahine Range contains a significant area of unmodified indigenous vegetation and is comprised primarily of the Ruahine Forest Park. Representative of the original podocarp and beech forest that covered much of the foothills and throughout the Pohangina and Ōroua Valleys. This intact forest is indicative of the area's mauri. It includes alpine beech forest and subalpine tussock, and is an important kiwi habitat. Subject of ecological research by DOC (and Forest Service before them) on impacts of pests including possums, deer, and pigs. Appears to be a relatively healthy functioning ecosystem that is clearly evident in the landscape. An ecological feature of this size is unique within the Manawatū District. It includes small fingers of indigenous vegetation in gullies running off the western side of the range and beyond the forest park boundary.
	Hydrological	It includes the upper reaches of some watercourses, such as Bielski Gully – Te Ano Whiro Stream. It is an important catchment for the Rangitīkei, Ōroua and Pōhangina Rivers and their tributaries. The mauri from the catchment's mountains and forests is transported through the waterways to nourish the land.
Perceptual	Memorability	High memorability as the defining feature and reference landmark for the entire district, dominating the eastern horizon and visible from throughout the district as an expansive indigenous vegetation cover on the dominant axial mountain landform.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Ranges very expressive of tectonic uplift and highly legible as the eastern boundary of the Manawatū District. Steep river and drainage valleys display natural

		erosion processes over time through the greywacke geology.
	Transient	Higher mountain ranges are covered by snow in winter months. Ranges have a defining effect on the weather, which can change quickly. Exposed to extreme weather.
	Aesthetic	High degree of coherence derived from the colour, texture, maturity and consistency of native vegetation which creates a vivid and visually striking pattern of land cover. When considered in combination with the land form, it is recognised as the most iconic landscape of the district.
	Naturalness	Extensively covered in unmodified indigenous vegetation with high degree of perceived naturalness, isolation and wilderness values. Absence of built form, structures and roads contributes to the perceived naturalness. Both Whāriti and Te Āpiti windfarm are located south of the Ruahine Range ONL in Tararua District. No other network utilities are known within the Manawatū District Ruahine Range ONL.
Associational	Historical	Pockets of early European migration and settlement, although now largely devoid of human habitation. Colenso followed the track used by Māori from Te Awarua in the west to the Makaroro River in the east.
	Recreation	Extensive tramping and eco-tourism. Many huts established over the years by clubs and DOC. Public access is available to the forest park from road ends. Access can also be obtained through private land if this can be arranged with local landowners. Sixtus Lodge and Outdoor Education Centre on Limestone Road is used as a base for school visits to the Ruahine Range and local area.
	Tangata Whenua	<p>The Ruahine Range, under the relevant settlements, is acknowledged as an area of interest for Ngāti Apa, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui-a-Rua, Ngāti Hauiti, and Rangitāne o Manawatū (for whom it is also a statutory acknowledgement area). In addition, the Settlement Act and Ōroua Declaration recognise Ngāti Kahungunu in relation to the Range.</p> <p>The Ruahine Range holds great historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū, as it is one of two mountain ranges that identify the iwi of Rangitāne. The long white cloud over the Range is said to be the taniwha Whāngaimokopuna. The southern Ruahine Range is intrinsically connected and related to the activities of the Pōhangina (River and</p>

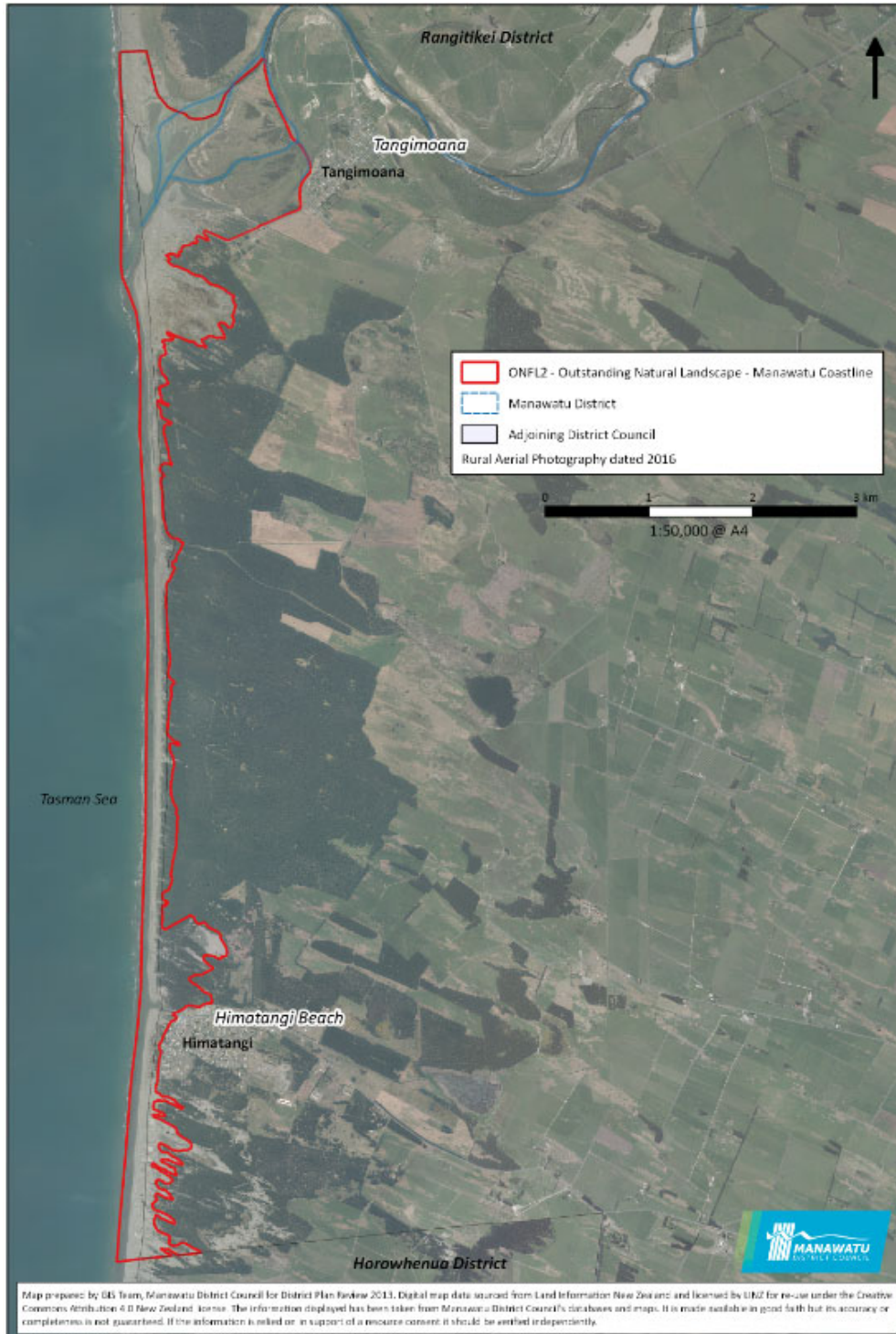
		<p>Valley), Te Ahu a Tūranga and Wharite as well as the numerous peaks along the Ranges of which the majority are named after Rangitāne o Manawatū ancestors. The Ruahine mountain range is a source of mauri for Rangitāne o Manawatū, hence the mauri is then transported by the waters of the Ōroua, Pohangina and Manawatū Rivers to the rest of the Rangitāne rohe. Peaks of significance to Rangitāne include Maharahara, Otumore, Tirahe, Te Hekenga, Te Ahu a Tūranga. Wharite (Whare-tītī) Peak towards the south is also of significance but lies in the Tararua District east of the Manawatū boundary line.</p> <p>There is a rock on the hilltop in the Ruahine Range named Te Ahu a Tūranga (imua) - the sacred mound of Tūranga (the elder child). It is located part way along the old Māori track that traverses west to east of the Ruahine Ranges. This peak is of great significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū as it is the place where Tūrangaimua, the son of Turi, the Captain of the Aotea waka was killed. Tūrangaimua settled in the Manawatū after marrying a Rangitāne o Manawatū woman, Parehuia. At some time after his marriage, Tūrangaimua journeyed to Tamaki Nui-a-Rua and Ahuriri, and joined with Rangitāne o Manawatū in fighting the local iwi. Unfortunately, the seemingly defeated Ahuriri iwi were not entirely vanquished and the Tūrangaimua group were overrun at a saddle on the Ruahine Range, just north of Te Āpiti. Tūrangaimua was killed in the ensuing battle, along with several Rangitāne o Manawatū chiefs. The slain were heaped in a mound and the site was named Te Ahu a Tūranga, the mound of Tūrangaimua, Te Ahu a Tūranga is located part way along the old Māori track that traversed west to east of the Ruahine Ranges. Te Ahu a Tūranga is a significant wāhi tapu, culturally, spiritually and historically to Rangitāne o Manawatū. The site is registered with the New Zealand Archaeological Association, as is the narrative associated with it.</p> <p>The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 gives recognition to many areas throughout the Manawatū District, including those places listed above regarding the Ruahine Ranges. One particular area referred to in the Deed of Settlement between Rangitāne o Manawatū and the Crown follows ridgelines across the ranges from Mount Richards in the Pōhangina Valley to Ruaroa in Tararua District (see map), via (but excluding) Maharahara (1095m) and Matanginui (1074m) peaks. Rangitāne o Manawatū also have an interest in the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve. However, the scenic reserve on the northern side of the Manawatū River lies within Tararua District</p>
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		<p>and the scenic reserve on the southern side lies within Palmerston North City.</p> <p>The One Plan identifies ‘The series of highest ridges and highest hilltops along the full extent of the Ruahine and Tararua Ranges, including within the Forest Parks’ as an ONFL. The Ruahine Range extends south as far as the Manawatū Gorge. The highest ridge extends along the full length of the Ruahine Range right down to the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve which encloses the Manawatū Gorge. This includes the 6km of farmland between the southern end of the Ruahine Forest Park and the Manawatū Gorge. The ONL identified in the landscape assessment is refined in extent from that identified in the One Plan, which the One Plan makes provision for at the TLA scale. The landscape assessment has reduced the southern extent of the One Plan ONL and generally aligned it with the southern extent of the forest park. This is due to the greater naturalness of the forest park compared to the modified state of the landscape between the forest park and Manawatū Gorge which contains grazed farmland and Te Āpiti windfarm. In determining this ONL, consideration was given to the Rangitāne o Manawatū interests in both the Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve and the connection with Te Ahu a Tūranga and Wharite (Whare-tītī) Peak. However, all lie within Tararua District so fall outside the jurisdiction of the Manawatū landscape assessment, even though they may be interpreted as being part of the ridgeline.</p> <p>Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga state that the Ruahine Ranges are a significant landscape being a part of pepehā for all iwi and hapū within the Manawatu landscape. Raukawa also recognise the connectivity of the ranges to the iwi's water sources and how they reference whakapapa of atua in the landscape.</p> <p>Rangitāne o Manawatū state that hapū would migrate to seasonal camps in the Ruahine Ranges to hunt birds such as kiwi, weka, kākā, kākāpō and kākārīki. Kiore were hunted along known trails, berries and rārāhu (fern root) were collected, as well as a range of high altitude plants for rongoā.</p> <p>Ngāti Kauwhata state ngā pae maunga o Ruahine (the mountain ranges of Ruahine) are an integral part of the cultural identity of Kauwhata. It presents as a key element in the tribal formulaic expression of identity known as pepehā. Kauwhata has had a long affinity with the Ruahine ranges since migration from the Waikato region in the early 1820’s, eventually settling along the Ōroua river around 1828. Ruahine has since become an integral part of Kauwhata identity, being</p>
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		observed in waiata, mōteatea and kōrero o te marae (marae oratory conversations).
	Shared/Recognised	<p>The One Plan recognises the qualities of the Ruahine Range as being ‘the skyline’s aesthetic cohesion and continuity, its prominence throughout much of the Region and its backdrop vista.’ and gives protection through the following provisions: The Ruahine Ranges ONFL is in two parts: (j) The Ruahine Forest Park (land administered by the Department of Conservation) and (l) “the skyline” (or more correctly “The series of highest ridges and highest hilltops along the full extent of the Ruahine Ranges including within the Forest Parks described in item (j).”</p> <p>Because the One Plan has been prepared through a public process, including public notification and hearings, these provisions reflect shared and recognised values of the Region. This reinforces the perceptual recognition that the prominence and memorability of the Ruahine Range causes this landscape to form a key part of the identity of the District.</p>
Summary of Key Characteristics		<p>Very high degree of naturalness due to the extensive covering of indigenous vegetation, dominance of large scale landforms, feeling of isolation, wilderness, and lack of human modification. Lack of built development which contributes to the perceived naturalness of the ranges as a defining backdrop to the District. Important recreational area. Highly memorable mountain range landform which contributes to the identity and sense of place of the District and Rangitāne o Manawatū. An existing large transmission tower at Wharite Peak lies outside Manawatū District but is located on one of the highest ridges, affecting the perceived naturalness of the Ranges as seen from Manawatū District.</p>
Potential Issues		<p>The high degree of perceived naturalness is derived from the dominance and expressiveness of the Ruahine Range, contrasting with the surrounding agricultural land form and land use. This could be threatened by clearance of indigenous vegetation for alternative land use; earthworks such as mining, roading or quarrying; large scale damming of rivers; large network utilities; and pests and weeds. It would assist with the protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage built development; • discourage earthworks; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">discourage adverse effects on cultural values.
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OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE 2– MANAWATŪ COASTLINE



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	<p>Coastal dune system seaward of the Tangimoana pine plantation. Includes active dune areas located around Hīmatangi township containing the north-western edge of the Foxtangi Dunefield. This part of the dunefield is unique in that it is the last remaining area of functioning duneland ecosystem that remains in private ownership in the area between Hīmatangi and Foxton (primarily Horowhenua District), and is known as the Foxtangi RAP (DOC Recommended Area for Protection).</p> <p>These areas of the Foxtangi Dunefield either side of Hīmatangi (within Manawatū District) are recommended as ONL, excluding the areas containing pine plantation. The coastline soils are primarily deep, well drained sandy loam. Research has recognised the Manawatū dunefield as the best representative example of Holcene dune development in New Zealand, and one of the best examples of parabolic dune development in Australasia.</p>
	Biological/Ecological	<p>Modified vegetation with prevalence of coastal grasses and acacia covering dunes between the high water mark and pine plantations. Inland dunefields have been planted in pine plantation for erosion control however these lie outside the ONL within the productive Tangimoana Forest. This area contains part of the Tangimoana Dunes, where the rare spiked sand sedge (<i>Eleocharis neozelandica</i>) can be found, and Fernbird area listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002) Appendix 1A (W3), along with part of the Foxtangi Dunes, Appendix 1A (W11).</p>
	Hydrological	<p>Coastal lagoons located inland of the ONL, which contribute to the hydrological functioning of the coastal processes where rivers and streams meet the sea and transporting the mauri from the coastal grasses and dunes to the surrounding land. These include Pukepuke Lagoon and Lake Kaikōkopu located inland of the dunes but set in farmland or adjacent to pine plantation. The ONL includes the mouth of the Rangitikei River and its coastal sand bank plus remnant flows across open floodplains in the southern oxbow. Pukepuke Lagoon relates to the hydrological functioning and is identified separately as a ONF as is Lake Kaikōkopu.</p>
Perceptual	Memorability	Memorable as an expansive unbuilt coastal foredune system.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Clearly expressive of coastal dune processes.

	Transient	Climatic changes of onshore/offshore winds, sea spray and coastal birds.
	Aesthetic	Extensive linear repetitive dune landform combined with the coastal grassland and native vegetation cover contributes to the coherence of this feature and is vivid particularly when observed from the beach. High aesthetic value due to naturalness and linear extent of unbuilt coastal frontage.
	Naturalness	Generally high naturalness, but with some areas of modification due to tracks and non-native vegetation. Naturalness also influenced by proximity of settlements and pine plantations parallel to the beach.
Associational	Historical	The beach was the highway in early European times, with the Scott’s Ferry serving the Rangitikei area from 1850 – 1908. A port operated at the Rangitikei River mouth servicing steamships from 1867-97 when flooding swept away all bridges across the Rangitikei and silted up the port, closing it forever. The coastal area is abundant in archaeological evidence, with over 35 recorded sites.
	Recreation	Foredunes accessed from coastal settlements, although off-road bikes threaten their stability, particularly in proximity to these settlements.
	Tangata Whenua	<p>Under the relevant settlements, the coastline is an area of interest, as well as a statutory acknowledgement area for both Ngāti Apa and Rangitāne o Manawatū. There are also cultural redress properties in Tangimoana.</p> <p>Foredunes are part of the wider coastal dune system, which was highly significant to Māori. Linked with the historic wetlands inland of the coastal dunes, fish (e.g. eels), flora (e.g. flax, pīngao) and fauna was an important food source for Māori. Numerous middens have been discovered inland of the sand dunes. Hīmatangi was an important source of a variety of foods for Rangitāne o Manawatū. The correct hyphenation of the Hīmatangi is said not to be Hima-tangi but Hī-matangi, and thereby provides a different tale. “Hī” means to fish, and Matangi was a Chief who lived in the mystic past in the Mōhaka District of the East Coast. The name also refers to Matangi capturing and slaying a Taniwha in the area upon his settlement. Hīmatangi was also famous for the abundance of eel and birds available from the wetlands and dune lakes in the area. The mouth of the Rangitikei River being of strategic importance to Rangitāne o Manawatū as it</p>

		<p>provided an entrance to the Rangitīkei and Central North Island. The name “Tangimoana” was allocated to a small coastal area. Traditionally the dune area around the town was referred to as Te Ruahine. The most recognised area or settlement (nearest to the present day township) was Tāwhirihoe. Tāwhirihoe was originally a pā site, then a mahinga kai and cultivation, and finally the flat now known as Scott’s Ferry and Tangimoana.</p> <p>The culturally significant feature of this coastline was the shellfish that were found in areas where the freshwater met the ocean and the wetland areas and small shallow dune lakes that were found between large dune structures. Within these lakes and the freshwater streams that feed them were a variety of native fish and eel as well as birds.</p> <p>Rangitīkei River was one of the sites of significance for Ngāti Apa located along the coastline as a fishing station and tauranga waka of Tāwhirihoe and the Rangitīkei Heads. The latter area was noted as the place that Rangipowhatu, an early ancestor of the Ngāti Taurā hapū of Ngāti Apa (North Island), first settled. From there, his descendants moved into the Rangitīkei Valley and populated the area.</p> <p>The Manawatū Coast has been an integral part of Rangitāne o Manawatū culture, history and existence with those connections being unbroken for over seven hundred years. These connection to the Manawatū Coast and coastal sand dune country have been recorded in waiata, kōrero and whakairo. The coastline or area that was traditionally referred to as Okatia, the spirit that created the Manawatū River, resides on the coast. The coastal area is abundant in archaeological evidence, with over 35 recorded sites. Rangitāne o Manawatū earliest connections with the Manawatū Coast are recorded by their Kurahaupō ancestor, firstly Kupe who navigated the coastline from the East Coast around Te Whanganui a Tara and along the Manawatū River Estuary.</p> <p>Tāwhirihoe Scientific Reserve is located immediately south of the Rangitīkei River mouth. The reserve and dune-lands are of historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū. Tāwhirihoe was an important site and nohonga area for people travelling along the coast or linking up with trails following inland to Pukepuke and Puketōtara. The Tāwhirihoe area has traditionally been a launching area for waka and Rangitāne o Manawatū fishing station. Rangitāne o Manawatū also commonly collected pipi along the coastline. The Tāwhirihoe area had a number</p>
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		<p>of large active dunes where traditionally plant and weaving resources such as pīngao were collected. Tāwhirihoe and the adjacent coastline is recognised by DOC as a unique area for its flora, fauna and landforms. The area is also recognised by Rangitāne o Manawatū for this and the natural resources utilised by the iwi. The area is one of the last natural coastal (backshore – foredune) environments with a number of rare sedges and flora. This is one of the last places that the endangered native Katipō spider is found. The Katipō spider is an important figure within Rangitāne o Manawatū lore. Over recent years numerous archaeological sites have been discovered unearthing middens and numerous artefacts providing important insights into the early history and use of the area by Rangitāne o Manawatū. The Tāwhirihoe Scientific Reserve is also recognised under the Statement of Association under the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 and Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010.</p> <p>Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga state that hapū within this landscape are Ngāti Rākau, Ngāti Tūranga and Ngāti Te Au, the hapū fought to retain their land at Hīmatangi which later became of the Rangitīkei-Manawatū Block purchase. Pīngao and spinifex is important in this landscape, this area had supplied weavers with Pīngao throughout the district. Kai gathering activities still take place for tuna and fishing in the ONL.</p> <p>Rangitāne o Manawatū state the area was settled by Rangitāne o Manawatū where the iwi thrived being rich in coastal and ocean resources. Of special significance was the mahinga kai toheroa, a large edible bivalve part of whose life phase is based around the native sand binding grass spinifex. The coastal area was one of the first places in the Manawatū to be acquired by European settlers, thus Rangitāne o Manawatū hold less information about the details of their ancestors’ activities along the coastline.</p> <p>Ngāti Kauwhata have stated that they have historical interests in the areas associated with the Manawatū Coastline Outstanding Natural Landscape, and a particular interest at Tangimoana. Ngāti Kāhoru, Ngāti Parewahawaha, Ngāti Kauwhata were given land as part of the Rangitīkei/Manawatū sale and purchase.</p> <p>Ngā Wairiki and Ngāti Apa interests in the coastal zone is though the combined hapū of Ngāti Kauae Muri Ranga Whenua (Ngāti Kauae) and Ngāti Rangitauira (Ngāti Taura). For many generations through to the time of colonisation, Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Taura whānau and hapū traversed this coastal zone, inland of</p>
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		<p>which were a series of paths and fortified pā, from Te Awamate, north of the Rangitīkei River, to Te Awahou on the River, to Omanuka, to Pukepuke, to Te Oahura at Kaikokopu, to Koputara. The Pā site at Kaikokopu, near to the coastal settlement of Himatangi beach, remains in the ownership of Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Tauria whānau. Te Awahou is the name of a large Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Tauria settlement on the Rangitīkei River less than 2km inland of Tangimoana. It was here in 1849 that the Rangitīkei Turakina transaction was signed primarily between the Crown and Ngā Wairiki – Ngāti Apa ancestors keen to engage with European settlers as a means of advancing the interests of the Iwi. This opened this part of the Country up for the European settlement that followed. It was from Te Awahou earlier on 21 May 1840 that many Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Tauria people travelled to the fishing village on the coast called Tawhirihoē and three leaders, Kāwana Te Hakeke, Mohi Mahi and Taumarū (Hamuera Te Raikokiritia) signed te Tiriti o Waitangi. Tawhirihoē was located on the southern bank of the Rangitīkei River mouth near to where Tangimoana is now. The coastal dune lakes were focus areas for seasonal kai gathering. These hapū were experts at building and maintaining wet land defensive pā that provided protection during food gathering seasons when the hapū were spread out and vulnerable. These were also strategic locations for retreat from more permanent settlements on the Rivers during times of danger.</p>
	<p>Shared/Recognised</p>	<p>Dunes recognised for the importance they play in coastal processes and high degree of perceived naturalness. The Tāwhirihoē Scientific Reserve, located on the coast immediately south of Tangimoana, contains one of the last examples of a dynamic dune and ephemeral wetland system, which once stretched along the west coast. The Reserve is partially planted in exotic pine plantation, the areas of which are excluded from the ONL. The Natural Character Assessment for the Manawatū District Coastal Environment did not recognise any areas as Outstanding Natural Character. However, the Landscape Assessment does recognise some areas as an Outstanding Natural Landscape. This is due to the weighting on Associational values in a landscape assessment which are absent from a natural character assessment.</p>
<p>Summary of Key Characteristics</p>		<p>Vital contribution to healthy functioning of coastal processes and erosion control with high perceived naturalness of the coastal landforms. High aesthetic values of expressiveness and naturalness resulting from extensive unbuilt coastal strip. Very high cultural</p>

	<p>associational values of spiritual well-being and kaitiakitanga for Māori. Some protection is also afforded under the NZCPS and the Statutory Authority.</p>
Potential Issues	<p>Coastal foredunes and estuaries define the landscape and contribute to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist preservation of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage built development; • discourage earthworks; and • discourage adverse effects on cultural values.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 3 – RANGITĪKEI RIVER



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Incised river valley created by erosion of river through the sedimentary soils, resulting in unique scalloped edges with exposed rock outcrops or mudstone bluffs. Erosion process is evident through the soft sedimentary layers of Plio-Pleistocene fossiliferous sediments. This area contains the Concretion Terrace which is listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002), Appendix 1C (OF1). The Rangitikei River has a limited area of river flats. These flats are well-drained in most places and are a result of alluvium being deposited when the river has been in flood.
	Biological/Ecological	Exotic vegetation and indigenous forest remnants on valley sides enhances ecological value and river quality while also creating a habitat for birdlife and increasing ecosystem health and mauri. Aquatic species present in the river include eels, koura, freshwater mussels, pātiki (black flounder), īnanga, and rainbow and brown trout.
	Hydrological	The source for the Rangitikei River is in the Kaimanawa Ranges, rising from springs on Ngāpuketurua. It is representative of one of New Zealand’s longest rivers at 241km long, it is the third longest river in the North Island and the sixth largest North Island river in terms of water volume. Water in the river and from stream tributaries has significant quality and quantity values, particularly on uses downstream. A national water conservation order exists on the river as a means of protecting water flow, and in many respects, this has prevented hydro-electric development on the river. The flow of water changes along the river’s course, which includes areas of rapids interspersed with deeper, quieter water. The Rangitikei River has a history of flooding and represents one of the educational opportunities of the river, which Massey University recognised and who have undertaken research on the historic channel change of the Rangitikei River at Bulls by assessing aerial photographs between 1955 and 2007. Flooding was traditionally celebrated by Māori as it formed part of the process of spreading mauri from the surrounding landscape, including from the mountains and forests, to nourish and feed the land and everything living on the land.
Perceptual	Memorability	Highly memorable landscape due to the scale and steepness of landform incision rising from the watercourse - more dramatic than surrounding folded landforms due to the presence of significant escarpments and waterway which contrasts with the

		surrounding modified pastoral landscape. The escarpments have a high degree of memorability and contribute to the identity and sense of place of the area.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Complex landform features are very expressive of the erosion processes of the river, with ‘empty’ scalloped ox-bows providing historical references to shifts in the river.
	Transient	River valley has its own microclimate. Changes in the location of the river bed over time, as evidenced by the ‘empty’ scallops. River level changes reflective of headwater rains. Deep gorges likely to have some impact on microclimatic conditions, such as creation of mist on colder mornings.
	Aesthetic	High aesthetic value due to its visually striking steep escarpments, cliffs and scalloping. These are a vivid, dramatic and awe-inspiring landscape feature characterised by a repetition of exposed eroding cliffs combined with a meandering scalloped watercourse in the deeply incised river valley, which provides coherence for this stretch of the Rangitikei River before it transitions into the flatter lands south of Vinegar Hill.
	Naturalness	High degree of perceived naturalness despite some pastoral use within the river valley. Naturalness significantly contributed to by the dramatic escarpment features, scale of their erosion and the expressiveness of the river’s meandering course over time as shown by the scallop shaped former ox-bows. Areas of farm land on the river flats have been included in the ONF because the river valley is viewed as an integrated whole between the river and escarpment top. The dominance of the geomorphology and topography is sufficiently strong to warrant the river corridor being read as a whole despite the presence of modified land cover. The river provides an important wildlife corridor.
Associational	Historical	Important travelling route since early settlement. Historic heritage, of particular historical importance are archaeological sites and high potential for archaeological site discovery. From the mid-1840s Pākehā settlers informally leased land from Ngāti Apa at several places south of the Rangitikei River. Rangitāne o Manawatū also leased out large areas of land in the 1840s to settlers in the vicinity of the Rangitikei River. During 1897 the river experienced its most significant flood since European settlement. The flood resulted in destroyed bridges and fords connecting townships, including bridges at both

		Mangaweka and Vinegar Hill. Flooding was so intense that large tōtara trees more than 300 years old were swept away near Vinegar Hill. At the lower end of the river homesteads were washed away and stock drowned. In 1958 the river was deemed as being navigable and, as such, became property of the Crown via the Coal-mines Act Amendment Act 1903. In 1959 under the Crown it became a soil conservation and river control reserve.
	Recreation	High level of recreational use, including swimming, rafting, jet boating, canoeing, kayaking (including an annual kayaking race) guided and unguided fishing (known for trophy rainbow and brown trout), walking, picnicking, and camping. Jet boating, rafting canoeing and kayaking on the Rangitīkei River are rated highly at a national scale. There are many access points to the river from roads leading off SH1. Access across private land is also available for those who wish to walk up the river to view the cannonball concretions (spherical boulders) in the forest adjacent to the river.
	Tangata Whenua	<p>The Rangitīkei River is identified as a statutory acknowledgment area in the following settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010 • Rangitāne o Manawatu Claims Settlement Act 2016 <p>The Rangitīkei River is identified as an area of interest in the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Act 2018.</p> <p>The naming of the Rangitīkei River occurred during the pursuit of Te Haunui a Nanaia for his wife, Wairaka, naming the rivers that he crossed along the way. Rangitīkei has been literally translated to be the day of the long stride, however it refers to the good progress that was made by Te Haunui a Nanaia during his day travels before he encountered the river. The Rangitīkei River is of historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance, as well as taonga to these iwi. The river is significant as a marker of the boundary of the rohe of Rangitāne o Manawatū. The river was a means of communication and was used as the main highway between the Central North Island and sea, and as a migration route (such as for Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Raukawa). During the arrival of Europeans, Māori were noted in the Rangitīkei area for travelling up and down the river by waka at pā sites along the way.</p> <p>The use of the Rangitīkei River as a route relied on lack of conflict with the various iwi and hapū whose boundaries border the river. In this way the Rangitīkei</p>

		<p>River was not only a physical link between tangata whenua but also a central component to the relationship link between the people. The Rangitikei River and the district’s waterways were a vital means of gaining access to settlement, cultivation and mahinga kai sites. The soil was fertile, and transport to mahinga kai was significantly aided by river access, making rapid communication between pā possible, and hence it was an essential means of trade. During the migration of foreign iwi the river provided an easy method to gather and mobilise warriors from surrounding areas. The Rangitikei River, with its sheer cliffs, was ideally suited for traditional kāinga (settlements) and elevated fortified defensive pā site.</p> <p>For Ngāti Apa (North Island), the Rangitikei River was occupied by several hapū. The mouth formed part of the domain of Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Tauira. Inland of these hapū were a number of hapū who descended from Tuariki, who had a famous mokai (pet) named Tutaeporoporo. These hapū included Ngāti Tupua, Ngāti Tupataua, Ngāti Ika/Tumoetere, and Ngāti Tamatea. Many of the Tuariki hapū were strongly interconnected with other hapū in the Whangaeahu and Turakina areas. Ngāti Tupua and Ngāti Tūpataua occupied the central reaches of the Rangitikei on a permanent basis but many of the other hapū only went to the upper areas of the Rangitikei for refuge from war parties and to snare birds, hunt pigs and catch eels. In 1840, Ngāti Apa signed the Treaty of Waitangi at Tāwhirihoē pā, a Ngāti Apa kāinga near the mouth of the Rangitikei River. This signified their first major engagement with the Crown.</p> <p>Ngāti Raukawa also have an interest in the Rangitikei River north of Ngāti Apa’s specific areas of interest and they came to settle in the Manawatū district by travelling down the Rangitikei River valley sometime prior to 1840. The entire river has huge cultural significance to Raukawa, having provided a means of transport and living environment for hundreds of years. Raukawa recognise the status of the river as an integrated system in that Raukawa are inextricable from the river system.</p> <p>For Ngāti Hauiti the Rangitikei River is defined as the heart of their lands, providing both physical and spiritual sustenance for generations.</p> <p>Rangitāne o Manawatū recognise Ngāti Tauira as a shared hapu between Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Apa.</p>
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		<p>Ngāti Kauwhata have stated that they have no interest other than this River was where Ngāti Kauwhata arrived from in their tribal migration. They headed inland on the Rangataua Stream near Kākāriki Bridge on the Rangitīkei River.</p> <p>Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Waewae have identified a number of key cultural interests relating to the Rangitīkei River catchment. They have referenced the statutory acknowledgement as set out in the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Act 2018. Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Waewae have further information that will be disclosed and considered at the discretion of iwi themselves. Local representatives are keen to engage and explore any changes and/or impacts to the river directly.</p>
	Shared/Recognised	<p>The Rangitīkei River is widely recognised by local people and forms a key part of the identity of the central Manawatū Region. Widely recognised for its boating and fishing opportunities. Iconic feature of the area which is widely written about, photographed, filmed and described. The white Papa cliffs contribute to the genius loci of the district.</p> <p>The area defined in the One Plan Schedule G as Rangitīkei River and river valley upstream of Pūtōrino has been refined in this assessment for the District Plan. This refinement has been done in accordance with One Plan Policy 6-7 which states: Territorial Authorities must take into account but not be limited to the criteria in Table 6.1 when: considering adding to, deleting from, or otherwise altering, redefining or modifying the list of outstanding natural features or landscapes listed in Table G.1 of Schedule G.</p> <p>The refinement of the Rangitīkei River ONFL from that described in the One Plan (Mangarere Bridge to Pūtōrino) has been done in accordance with this policy. When reducing the length, criteria in Table 6.1 were considered (as they relate to the Assessment Criteria). The lower portion of this section did not have sufficient expressiveness/legibility or gorge-like containment in comparison to the character of the upper section of river (such as Vinegar Hill) to warrant its inclusion within the ONL.</p>
Summary of Key Characteristics		<p>High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes of the Rangitīkei River course which contrasts with the surrounding terrace landform. The dynamic qualities demonstrated by the legibility of the scallop features</p>

	<p>(formerly river bed), the dramatic appearance of the enclosing curved escarpments, the dominance of the river corridor, the prominence, visibility and beauty of the white, sheer, papa (mudstone) cliffs, and the unbuilt simplicity of the cliff edges and escarpment tops result in a highly memorable landscape feature. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation contribute to the ecological and water quality values. Existing areas of grazing and productive land uses allow for visibility of the landform. A Transpower high voltage transmission line Powerco pole lines cross this ONF.</p>
<p>Potential Issues</p>	<p>Earthworks and/or quarrying that may affect the integrity of the mudstone cliffs and scallops (including roading across the escarpments). Further degradation of native riparian vegetation which may lead to sedimentation of the river and destruction of wildlife habitat. Activities, including pine plantations, on the escarpments or terraces which may screen the geological features. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage earthworks; • discourage adverse effects on cultural values; and • restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 4 - MANGAMAKO GORGE



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Representative of deeply incised valleys which characterise the area and are unique to the surrounds. The gorge is expressive of the erosion process of the stream through the sedimentary soils, resulting in a meandering watercourse with exposed rock outcrops or white mudstone bluffs that contrast with the surrounding pastoral landscape
	Biological/Ecological	Indigenous forest remnants on valley sides, which enhances ecological value and water quality, increasing ecosystem health and mauri, while also creating a habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife. Mangamako Gorge is listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002), Appendix 1B (SA41). The Horizons Regional Council recommends the Mangamako Stream for trout spawning value in the Manawatū-Wanganui Region, with rainbow trout residing in the stream. Database records published by NIWA also shows that kōaro, upland bully, Crans bully, red-fin bully and shortfin eel have been recorded as present.
	Hydrological	This gorge services a wide agricultural catchment area and contributes ecosystem functionality through erosion control and the maintenance of water quality and transportation of mauri before runoff reaches the Rangitikei River. During the summer the Mangamako Stream only flows intermittently.
Perceptual	Memorability	This gorge services a wide agricultural catchment area and contributes ecosystem functionality through erosion control and the maintenance of water quality and transportation of mauri before runoff reaches the Rangitikei River. During the summer the Mangamako Stream only flows intermittently.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Complex landform features that are expressive of the erosion processes of the Mangamako Stream demonstrated by its steeply incised character and tall escarpments.
	Transient	Deep gorges likely to have some impact on microclimatic conditions, such as creation of mist on colder mornings. Fauna present in indigenous vegetation.
	Aesthetic	Extensive indigenous vegetation throughout the valley system has a high degree of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape which results in high aesthetic value. The combination of indigenous

		vegetation cover with the incised valley system has significance within the district through their rarity. A Powerco pole line crosses a southern arm of the feature with minimal effect.
	Naturalness	High degree of perceived naturalness in the gully. Naturalness significantly contributed to by the extent of indigenous vegetation and expressiveness of the stream's erosion process. Provides an important ecological node along the Rangitīkei River wildlife corridor.
Associational	Historical	Unknown.
	Recreation	Limited opportunities for the public to experience this feature, although fishing does occur further upstream in the Mangamako Stream.
	Tangata Whenua	Mangamako Gorge is an area of interest under the relevant settlements for Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Hauiti. Rangitāne o Manawatū only have statutory acknowledgement over the main stem of the Rangitīkei River, not its tributaries, so Mangamako Gorge is not an area of interest. Part of the area that Ngāti Apa asserted mana included from the confluence of the Makohine Stream and Rangitīkei River, then south a short distance to the mouth of the Mangamako Stream. Additionally, in a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata have stated that they have no interest in this area.
	Shared/Recognised	Mangamako Gorge is adjacent to the Rangitīkei River which is widely recognised for its fishing opportunities.
Summary of Key Characteristics		High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes of the Mangamako Stream incised landform, which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use, and the limited built modification. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation contribute to the ecological and water quality values and overall perceptions of naturalness. An existing Powerco pole line crosses a southern arm of the feature.
Potential Issues		The steeply incised valley system filled with native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• discourage loss of native vegetation;• discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation;• discourage adverse effects on cultural values; and• discourage earthworks; and restrict built development.
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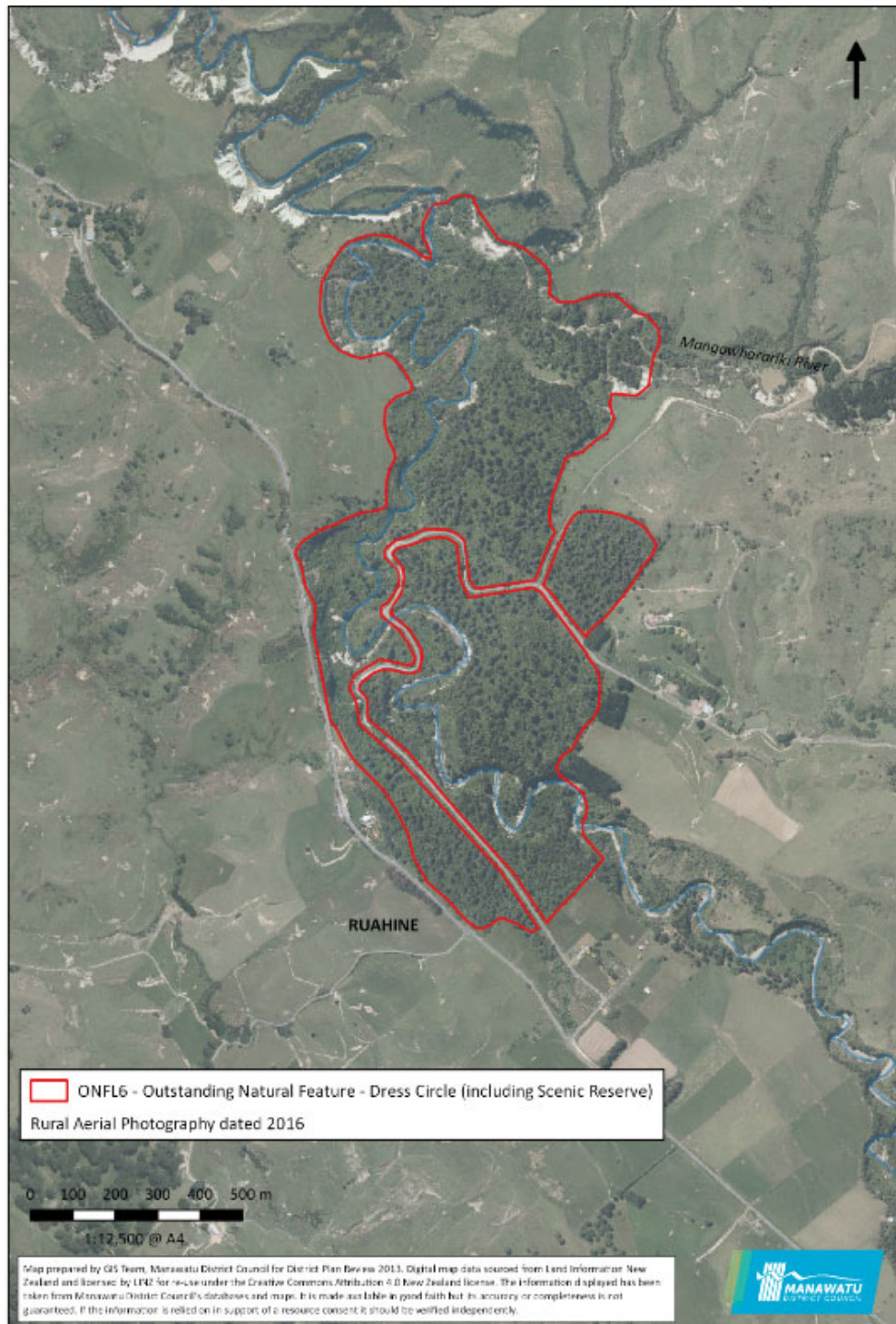
OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 5 – TITIRANGI



Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Landform is representative of the typical surrounding area consisting of a folded landscape with numerous drainage pattern incisions evident.
	Biological/Ecological	Ecosystem health and mauri is reflected in the large stretches of indigenous flora and fauna habitat, including great examples of specimen trees such as kahikatea, rimu, miro, mātai and rewarewa. These specimens are rare in the area as much of the surrounding landscape was deforested during European settlement. The Titirangi Reserve is regarded as one of the best examples of lowland forest vegetation on the North Island. Survey research undertaken in February 2000 indicates a diverse range of native flora species in the reserve.
	Hydrological	Numerous stream fingers and catchment contribute to the ecosystem functionality of the Mangawharariki River by feeding into the river and enabling the movement of mauri through the catchment. The Mangawharariki River itself is a tributary of the Rangitikei River and is 33km long.
Perceptual	Memorability	Extensive cover of indigenous vegetation contributes to the simplicity of the feature and is indicative of what the land cover would have looked like prior to European settlement.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Drainage valleys are expressive of the natural erosion processes.
	Transient	Transient value related to fauna of the forest.
	Aesthetic	High degree of perceived naturalness of the whole feature is exhibited by the expansive indigenous forest and gives rise to vividness and a high degree of coherence.
	Naturalness	Extensively covered in unmodified indigenous vegetation with high degree of perceived naturalness.
Associational	Historical	Unlike much of the surrounding landscape this extensive area of indigenous vegetation was never milled, the land was seen as too difficult to clear when the original European settlers arrived in the area. This makes this an important historical reference to previous land cover.

	Recreation	There are limited opportunities for the public to experience this feature.
	Tangata Whenua	Titirangi is an area of interest for Ngāti Hauiti. Additionally, in a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata have stated that they have no interest in this area.
	Shared/Recognised	It is along the Manawatū Scenic Route, which is an alternative to SH1 and allows travellers to discover stunning scenery.
Summary of Key Characteristics		High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expanse of unmodified indigenous forest which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use. Outstanding values supported by ridgeline to stream ecosystem and associational values. This area is regarded as being one of the best examples of lowland forest in the North Island. The two parallel high voltage power lines run past the reserve 1km to the east.
Potential Issues		<p>The extensive and continuous expanse of native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage adverse effects on cultural values; and • discourage earthworks; and restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 6 – DRESS CIRCLE (INCLUDING SCENIC RESERVE)



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Indigenous vegetation contained within and adjacent to an incised valley created by erosion of stream through the sedimentary soils which contrasts with the surrounding pastoral landscape. Erosion process is evident through the expressive valley formation, presenting a geological educational opportunity. In places the unique formations of soft grey papa rock, with its many holes, has an appearance reminiscent of swiss cheese.
	Biological/Ecological	Indigenous forest remnants on valley sides are representative of the land cover that would have once covered this area. The remaining native forest enhances ecological value and water quality, increasing ecosystem health and mauri, while also creating a habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife.
	Hydrological	Large agricultural catchment area upstream of this reserve. The dense vegetation contributes to the area's ecosystem health along the stream margins by helping maintain water quality and mauri. There are waterfalls located by the Dress Circle swimming hole. The Mangawharariki River is a tributary of the Rangitikei River and is 33km long.
Perceptual	Memorability	Area has a high degree of memorability due to the composition of natural elements, being primarily the distinctive incised geomorphology and the indigenous vegetation within the valley. This also spreads up onto the terrace in places, extending the vegetation's influence as a coherent landscape feature.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Incised river valley and escarpments along with the indigenous vegetation contrasts with the surrounding simple pastoral land cover causing the Papanui (meaning "big flat") Reserve to be clearly legible in its rural context. Incised valley clearly expressive of the erosive processes that have occurred over time and its mudstone derivation.
	Transient	Transient value related to fauna of the forest, as well as the changing presence of waterfalls caused by flood waters corroding the soft rock.
	Aesthetic	Scenic quality of the incised stream valley with large of tracts indigenous vegetation create a sense of cohesion, while the visually striking exposed mudstone (papa) cliffs contribute to the vividness of the landscape.

	Naturalness	High degree of naturalness resulting from the combination of erosion processes and extent of indigenous vegetation.
Associational	Historical	Early settlers named the reserve as when they saw the surrounding cliffs it reminded them of the dress circle in an opera house.
	Recreation	A popular swimming and picnic spot for over 100 years. There is also a walking track and is a known geocache site.
	Tangata Whenua	The Dress Circle is an area of interest for Ngāti Hauiti. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata state that the Iwi have identified historical interest in this area, noting additional interests that remain in close proximity.
	Shared/Recognised	Early settlers gave the area its name because when they saw the surrounding cliffs they were reminded of the dress circle in an opera house. It has featured in AA magazines, is mentioned on the New Zealand Cycle Trail website, is on the Manawatū Scenic Route and is widely known.
Summary of Key Characteristics		High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes of the Mangawharariki River incised landform, which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation contribute to the ecological and aesthetic values. An existing high voltage transmission line passes across the Mangawharariki River 250m west of the Dress Circle ONF.
Potential Issues		The steeply incised landform valley system filled with native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discourage loss of native vegetation; discourage establishment of exotic vegetation; discourage adverse effects on cultural values; discourage earthworks; and restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 7 – MANGOIRA AND MANGAHUIA STREAM

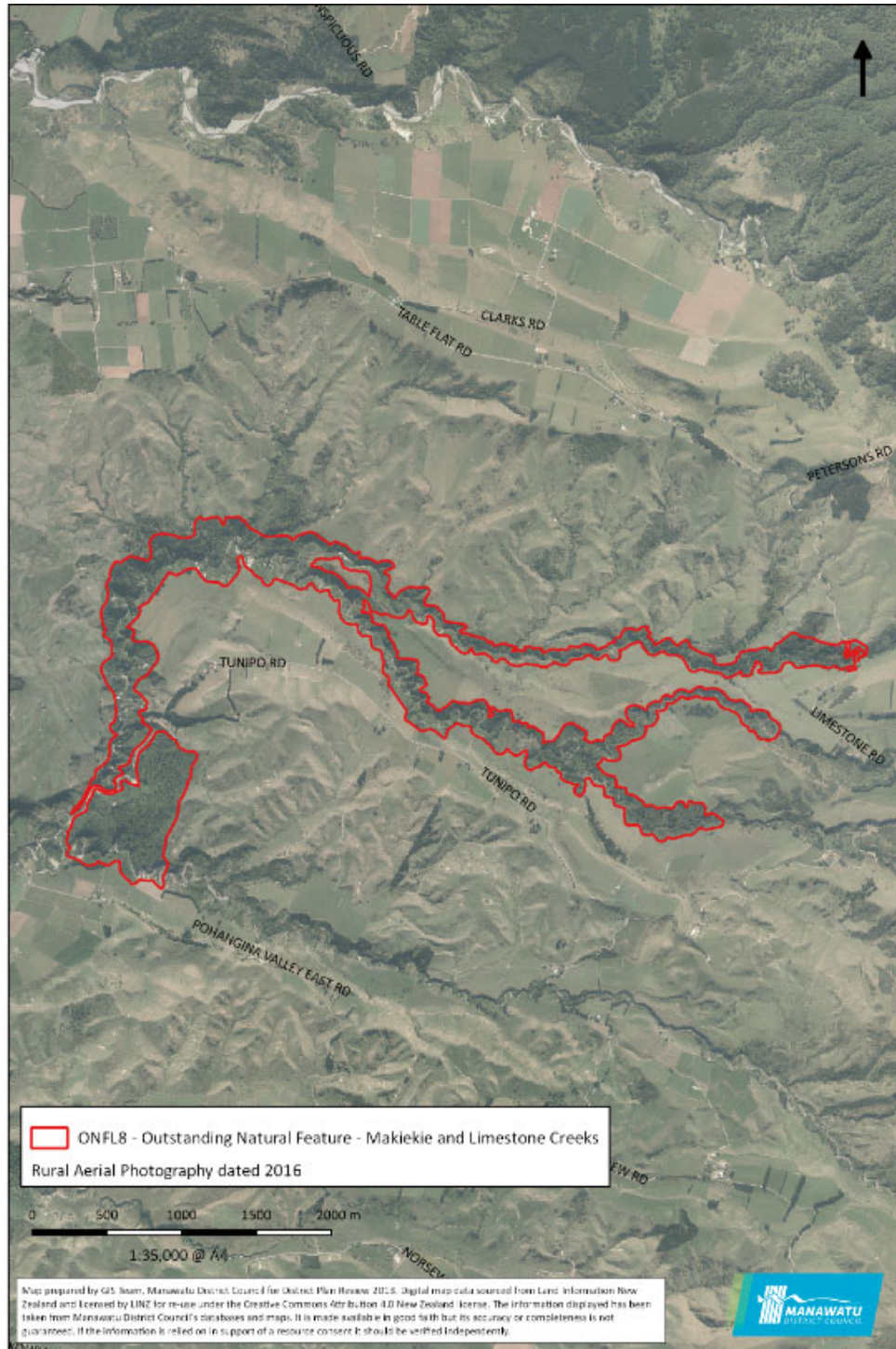


Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Deeply incised stream valleys with steep sided faces and dense vegetation. Representative of the erosion processes of the water catchment area which has cut through soft marine sedimentary layers.
	Biological/Ecological	<p>Indigenous vegetation enhances ecological value, mauri and water quality. Mangahua Stream is home to several unique and threatened native fish species, including the rare giant kōkopu, banded kōkopu, longfin and shortfin eels, īnanga, and koura.</p> <p>Vegetation is composed of mixed podocarp-broadleaf forest and scrubland, as well as some sedgeland. Red beech is found along the ridges and represents the main type of tree species. Research completed as part of the 1997 Weed Survey of Scenic Reserves found that there is some evidence of browsing but there is little sign of pressure from pest animals, and a good covering of seedlings is present on the forest floor.</p>
	Hydrological	Riparian vegetation maintains water quality from agricultural land runoff and contributes to ecosystem health and movement of mauri through the area.
Perceptual	Memorability	Contrasts to the modified pastoral landscape and is more dramatic than surrounding folded/flattened terrace landforms.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Highly legible landform features which are expressive of the erosion processes of the stream demonstrated by the steeply incised escarpment.
	Transient	Low transient value, although fauna and likely microclimatic conditions in gullies.
	Aesthetic	Extensive indigenous vegetation throughout the valley system has a high degree of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape. The combination of indigenous vegetation cover with the incised valley system has significance within the district through their rarity.
	Naturalness	Whilst the area is surrounded by a largely modified pastoral landscape, a high degree of perceived naturalness within the gullies is exhibited by the extent of indigenous vegetation remnants and regeneration.
Associational	Historical	Unknown.

	Recreation	While there are DOC tramping tracks further east upstream, outside of the boundaries of the ONF, there are none within the ONF, limiting public access. Mangoira Stream has been known to be used for riverbed four-wheel driving.
	Tangata Whenua	The streams are acknowledged as an area of interest for Ngāti Hauiti. Mangahuia means “stream of the huia,” a bird once abundant in the area, while Mangoira translates to “essence of a shark”. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata identify this area as being within the Ōroua River Catchment, of which Ngāti Kauwhata has interest.
	Shared/Recognised	Unknown.
Summary of Key Characteristics		High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes of the two incised stream corridors which contrasts with the surrounding terrace landform and agricultural land use. Areas of indigenous gully vegetation contribute to the ecological, aesthetic and water quality values.
Potential Issues		The incised valley systems filled with native vegetation define the feature and contribute to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following was to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discourage the loss of native vegetation; discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; discourage adverse effects on cultural values; discourage earthworks; and restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 8 – MAKIEKIE AND LIMESTONE CREEKS



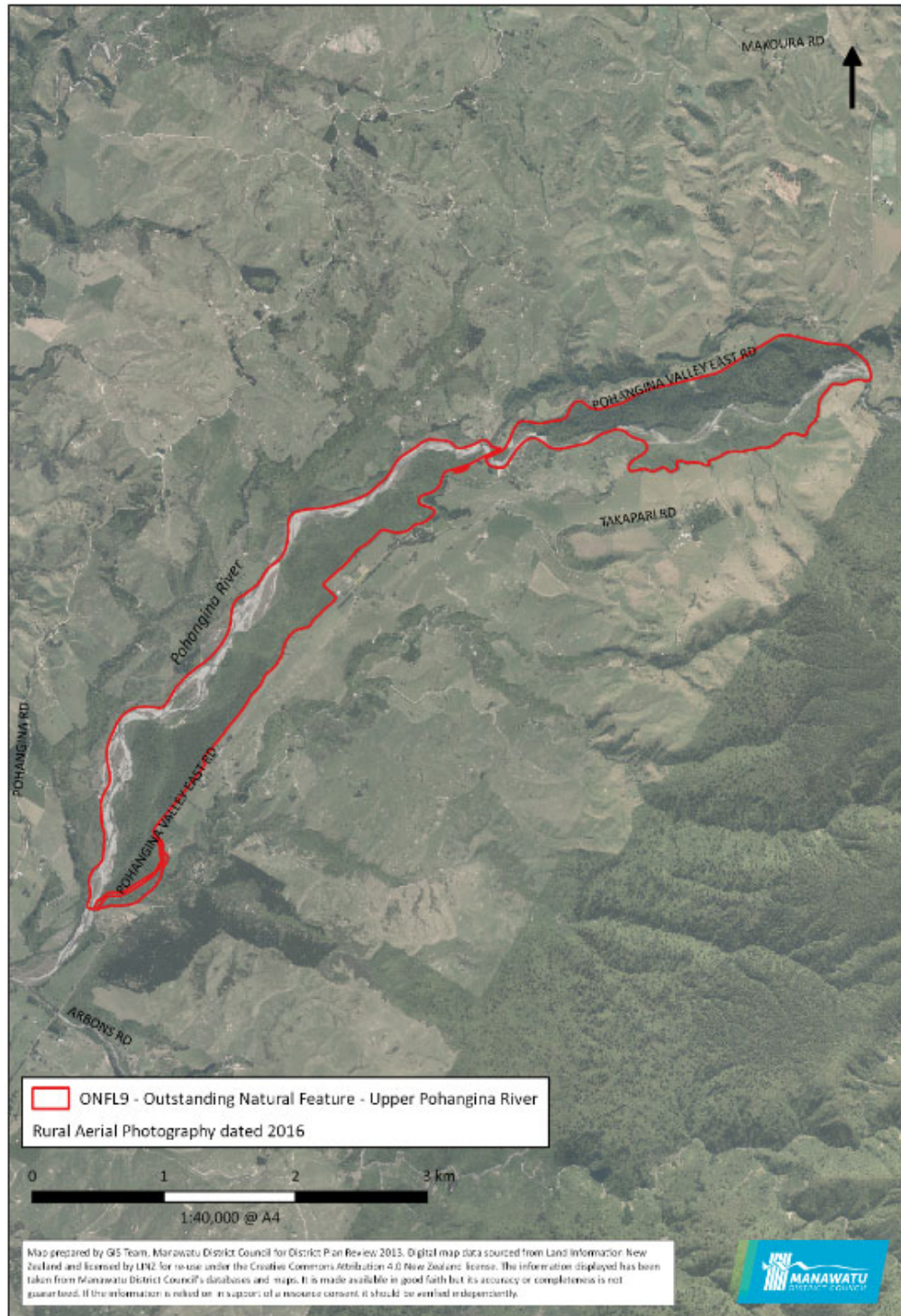
Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Erosion process of the stream is evident through the creation of steeply incised stream valleys, which are representative of this feature type characteristic of the local area. Relatively small scale when compared to other river valleys within the District which makes them an unusual and unique feature. Strong contrast to the terrace form of the surrounding agricultural land use. This area contains the Glow Worm Caves which are listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002), Appendix 1C (OF2).
	Biological/Ecological	Indigenous forest remnants in Makiekie Reserve and on the valley sides, which enhances ecological value, increasing ecosystem health and mauri, while also creating a habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife. The forest includes an interesting mix of conifer and broad-leaf species, as well as beech forest. In the Makiekie Scenic Reserve large rimu and tōtara are plentiful. There are also mature red beech trees up to 35m tall in some places, as well as younger, regenerated stands that have come up following wind damage. Horizons Regional Council recommends Makiekie Creek for trout fishery value in the Manawatū-Wanganui Region. Makiekie Creek was also included in a published research article by Michael K. Joy and Russell G. Death who undertook a biological assessment of rivers in the Manawatū-Wanganui region investigating macroinvertebrates.
	Hydrological	This ecological system has a catchment which includes the Ruahine Ranges as well as a wide agricultural area and this contributes to the maintenance of water quality and mauri before reaching the Pōhangina River then Manawatū River.
Perceptual	Memorability	Memorable due to the contrast between the vegetated hillsides and incised gullies, and the surrounding agricultural land use and terrace landform.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Expressive of the formative geomorphological processes.
	Transient	Stream level changes reflective of headwater rains. Deep gorges likely to have some impact on microclimatic conditions, such as creation of mist on colder mornings. Transient value related to fauna of the forest.
	Aesthetic	Extensive indigenous vegetation throughout the valley system has a high degree of coherence and reinforces

		its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape which results in a high scenic quality. The combination of indigenous vegetation cover with the incised valley system has significance within the District through their rarity and is an excellent example of indigenous lowland forest.
	Naturalness	High degree of perceived naturalness exhibited by the formative process and indigenous vegetation cover.
Associational	Historical	Unknown.
	Recreation	Forms part of a tramping route, Deerford Track to Makiekie Creek which is used for both walking and hunting.
	Tangata Whenua	The Makiekie and Limestone Creeks are an area of interest to Rangitāne o Manawatū, and Ngāti Hauiti. Ngāti Kahungunu are also acknowledged in relation to the area under the relevant settlements and Ōroua Declaration. Makiekie Creek was also a source of vivianite, a mineral that was used as a blue pigment for the face painting of warriors for battle. This was the only source for Rangitāne o Manawatū and so was of military significance. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata has stated that as an area of which Ngāti Kauwhata has interest
	Shared/Recognised	Sixtus Lodge located just east of ONF, is used by school groups who often use the local tracks for outdoor recreation. While Glow Worm caves located under Limestone Road are at the eastern edge of ONF. Includes the Makiekie Scenic Reserve, recognised for its ecological and scenic values, which is also located along the Manawatū Scenic Route. Recognised on the AA Traveller website.
Summary of Key Characteristics		High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes and extent of indigenous vegetation which contrasts with the surrounding terrace landform and agricultural land use. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation contribute to the ecological and water quality values.
Potential Issues		The incised valley system with native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• discourage the loss of native vegetation;• discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation;• discourage adverse effects on cultural values;• discourage earthworks; and• restrict built development.
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OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 9 – UPPER PŌHANGINA RIVER



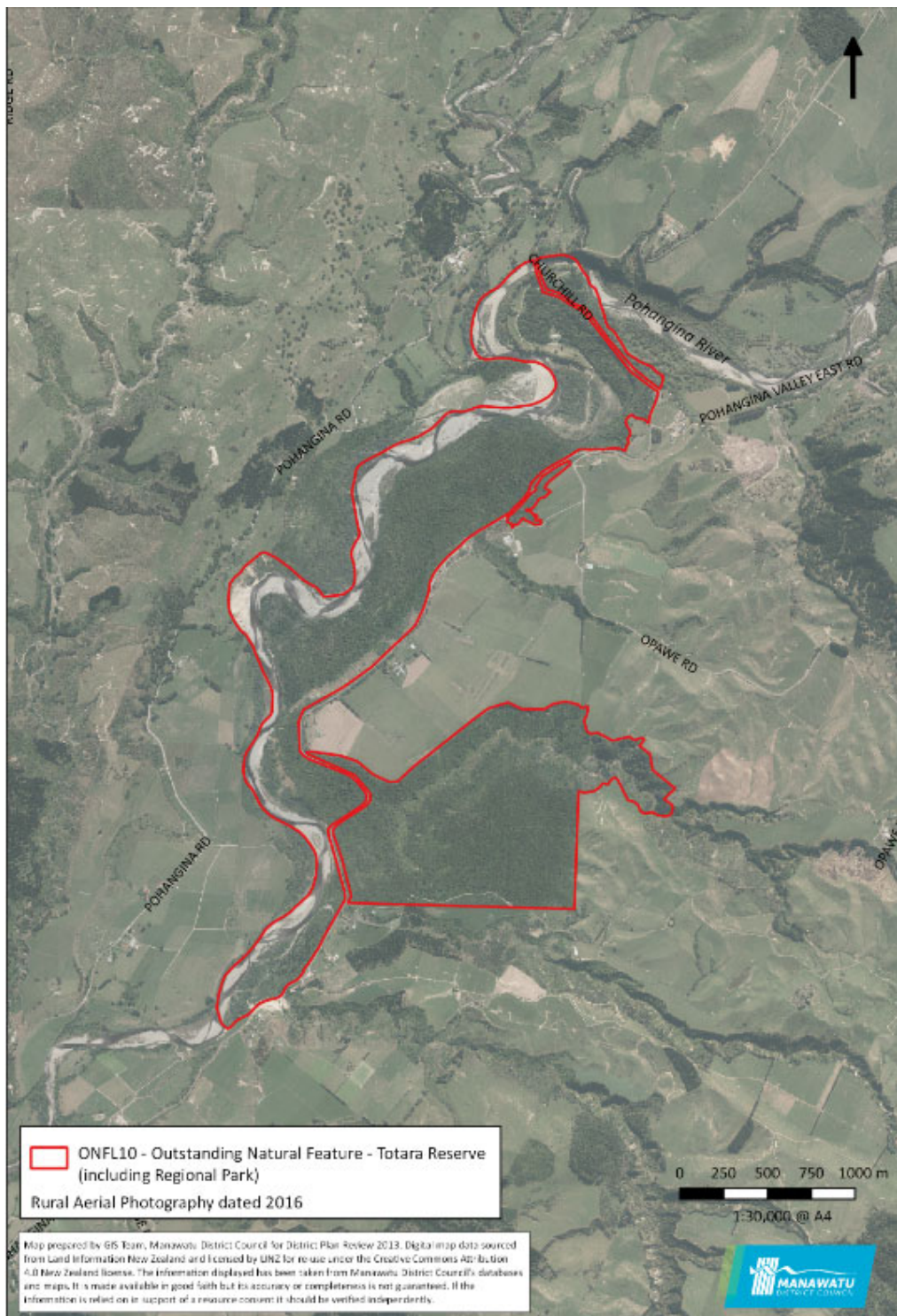
Version ID: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Erosion process of the river is evident through the creation of a river valley and terrace.
	Biological/Ecological	Large stretch of indigenous flora and fauna habitat representative of what would have once been throughout the Pōhangina Valley and reflective of the area's mauri. Vegetation is dominated by kahikatea forest in the wetter areas and tōtara forest in the drier areas. In parts these kahikatea are mature and large in size, with kahikatea of this size being rare. The Pōhangina River is considered to have a valuable trout fishery resource as well as a number of native fish species including bullies, kōkopu, brown mudfish and eels. Pōhangina River provides educational opportunities, including the study of macroinvertebrate and physiochemical river composition studies (such an investigation by students at Piripiri was led by freshwater ecology scientist Dr Alex James through the PTC Trust).
	Hydrological	Indigenous forest cover protects water quality, enhancing ecosystem health and mauri of the water. The Pōhangina River is one of the Manawatū River's main tributaries. The river originates in the western foothills of the Ruahine Range and flows close to the range until it merges with the Manawatū River at the western end of Te Āpiti.
Perceptual	Memorability	Area has high memorability as a large stand of dense indigenous vegetation adjacent to the braided Pōhangina River. Bold form of the Podocarp trees rising up out of the native bush is striking.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	The extent of indigenous vegetation is sufficient to be clearly legible as a remnant forest area typical of that which would have once been predominant throughout the Pōhangina Valley.
	Transient	Fluctuations in river level and some flooding is likely. Transient values related to fauna of the forest. Pōhangina Valley tends to get a lot of cloud and has its own microclimate, being close to the foothills of the Ruahine Range, thus, the very climate itself gives a separate identity to the area.
	Aesthetic	High aesthetic appeal due to the extent of unmodified indigenous vegetation along the margin of the river which provides a high sense of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast

		to the surrounding modified landscape which results in a high scenic quality.
	Naturalness	High degree of perceived naturalness within the defined ONF exhibited by the vegetation cover which typically extends from the river's edge to the top of the first river escarpment.
Associational	Historical	Surrounding area was cleared for farming and timber, meaning this area has value in being a remnant of what vegetation once covered the region.
	Recreation	Public walking tracks and camping grounds contained within the reserve. Within the ONF there is the DOC Pōhangina Base and Piripiri campsites. There is good trout fishing and hunting upstream of the Piripiri campsite. A scenic four-wheel drive opportunity is also available on the nearby Takapari Road. At the southern end of the ONF there is the DOC 'Kahikatea Walk' which provides an easy walking opportunity, that is suitable for both young and old, to experience the broad-leaf forest.
	Tangata Whenua	Under the Settlement Act, the Upper Pōhangina River is an area of interest for Rangitāne o Manawatū. Ngāti Kahungunu are also acknowledged under the relevant Settlement Act and Ōroua Declaration in relation to the area. During the 19th century Māori occupation sites along the Pōhangina River were frequent. The river provided plentiful supplies of food sources (particularly eels) as well as easily navigable routes. Dense surrounding forest also supplied quantities of birds and berries. Rangitāne o Manawatū traditionally collected hīnau, rātā and hebe berries for food resources, along with other selected native trees. The Pōhangina River is of historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū. Through Rangitāne o Manawatū traditions such as waiata, kōrero and whakairo, a battle occurred between Rangitāne o Manawatū and a neighbouring iwi who crossed the Ruahine Range via Te Ahu a Tūranga and entered the Pōhangina Valley. The battle was known as "Te Wai Whakatāne o Ngāti Kahungunu," which translates to the battle title "the water where the blood of Ngāti Kahungunu was made to flow". The area and river mean 'ulcerated night', 'Pō' meaning night and 'hanga' meaning ulcerated. This suggests that the valley had been a place where bloodshed had occurred between Rangitāne o Manawatū and their enemies. Thus, this was a place of darkness and there was a degree of fear attached to the area because of bloodshed. The second level of meaning was the very

		<p>ulcerated or dissected nature of the landscape itself, lots of little streams with valleys cutting down in to the area.</p> <p>Ngāti Kauwhata have stated this is an area of interest for Ngāti Kauwhata.</p>
	Shared/Recognised	The river runs along the Manawatū Scenic Route, which is an alternative to SH1 and allows travellers to discover stunning scenery.
Summary of Key Characteristics		Landform with an extensive indigenous forest from the valley floor to the top of the river terrace. Composition of the vegetated escarpments adjacent to the watercourse hold high levels of perceived naturalness, which contrasts with the surrounding productive farmland. Pōhangina Valley East Road passes through the area, as does have a pole transmission line.
Potential Issues		<p>The extent of native vegetation and enclosure within the valley defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage adverse effects on cultural values; • discourage earthworks; and • restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 10 – TŌTARA RESERVE



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Erosion process of the river is evident through the creation of a river valley and terrace which scours the adjacent cliffs. The cliffs adjacent to the Pōhangina River in the Tōtara Reserve are made of ancient, weakly consolidated, weathered river gravels with sparse consolidated silt (Turitea Formation, about a million years old).
	Biological/Ecological	<p>Large stretch of indigenous flora and fauna habitat representative of what would have once been throughout the Pōhangina Valley. The reserve is a much-prized area of bush with podocarp forest covering hills and valleys and is a rare remnant of lowland forest in the Manawatū District, reflecting the mauri of this area. It is a healthy ecosystem and is considered the finest forest remnant in the Manawatū Ecological District (Manawatū Plains Ecological District – PNA Report – June 1995). It is a valuable ecosystem habitat for many indigenous species of plant of bird species. Predominant trees include tōtara, mātai, rimu and kahikatea. Specifically, vegetation is dominated by kahikatea forest in the wetter areas and tōtara forest in the drier areas. There are also some black beech trees and tree ferns.</p> <p>Native birds in the reserve include tui, fantail, waxeye, morepork, bellbird, kingfisher, and kererū. The Pōhangina River is considered to have a valuable trout fishery resource as well as a number of native fish species including bullies, kōkopu, brown mudfish and eels. The diverse ecology of the area provides an educational opportunity for nature studies.</p>
	Hydrological	Pōhangina River flows along the western edge of Tōtara Reserve Regional Park and is prone to flooding. Flooding was traditionally celebrated by Māori as a means of spreading mauri through the landscape. The river has a low gradient in the reserve and a gentle flow which travels through a series of pools and riffles on a fine gravel bed.
Perceptual	Memorability	Area has high memorability as a large stand of mature dense indigenous vegetation adjacent to the braided Pōhangina River. Bold form of the mature Podocarp trees rising up out of the native bush is striking.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	The extent of indigenous vegetation is sufficient to be clearly legible as a remnant forest area typical of that which would have once been predominant throughout the Pōhangina Valley.

	Transient	Fluctuation in river level and some flooding is likely. Transient values related to fauna of the forest. Pōhangina Valley tends to get a lot of cloud and has its own microclimate, being close to the foothills of the Ruahine Range. For this reason, the very climate itself gives a separate identity to the area.
	Aesthetic	High aesthetic appeal due to the extent of unmodified indigenous vegetation along the margin of the river which provides a high sense of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape which results in a high scenic quality.
	Naturalness	High degree of degree of perceived naturalness exhibited by the vegetation cover which typically extends from the river's edge to the top of the first river escarpment.
Associational	Historical	Surrounding area was cleared for farming and timber in the late 1860s, meaning this reserve has value in being a remnant of vegetation that once covered the region. In 1886 the reserve was set aside for state forest purposes, being originally preserved for its timber. When state forest status was cancelled in 1946 the land was declared a recreation reserve and was prized for its scenic values at a time when lowland forest elsewhere in the Manawatū had all but vanished. In 1975 this status was changed from recreation to scenic. It is a popular camping area. The first camping in the area took place in the 1920s at what was originally called the Pōhangina Boys' Camp. Established by the YMCA, the site is now known as Camp Rangi Woods after YMCA general secretary Charles "Rangi" Woods and is located at the northern end of the reserve. Today Tōtara Reserve is co-governed by Rangitāne o Manawatū and HRC.
	Recreation	Public walking tracks, picnic areas, fishing, swimming holes, and camping grounds are contained within the reserve. One of these walks includes the 'Fern Walk', which was developed to encourage Manawatū residents and visitors to the Region to venture into the outdoors. Maintenance and improvement of these facilities should be encouraged.
	Tangata Whenua	Under the Settlement Act, Tōtara Reserve is an area of interest for Rangitāne o Manawatū. During the 19th century Māori occupation sites along the Pōhangina River were frequent. The river provided plentiful supplies of food sources (particularly eels) as well as

		<p>easily navigable routes. Dense surrounding forest also supplied quantities of birds and berries. Rangitāne o Manawatū traditionally collected hīnau, rātā and hebe berries for food resources, along with other selected native trees. The area was also known for a specific type of tōtara which could only be found in this place. The trees were used by Rangitāne o Manawatū to create waka and were prized for their strength, length, and straightness of bough.</p> <p>The Pōhangina River is of historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū. Through Rangitāne o Manawatū traditions such as waiata, kōrero and whakairo. A battle occurred between Rangitāne o Manawatū and a neighbouring iwi who crossed the Ruahine Range via Te Ahu a Tūranga and entered the Pōhangina Valley. The battle was known as “Te Wai Whakatāne o Ngāti Kahungunu,” which translates to the battle title “the water where the blood of Ngāti Kahungunu was made to flow.” The area and river mean ‘ulcerated night’, ‘Pō’ meaning night and ‘hanga’ meaning ulcerated. This suggests that the valley had been a place where bloodshed had occurred between Rangitāne o Manawatū and their enemies. Thus, this was a place of darkness and there was a degree of fear attached to the area because of bloodshed. The second level of meaning was the very ulcerated or dissected nature of the landscape itself, lots of little streams with valleys cutting down in to the area.</p> <p>Ngāti Kauwhata have identified a tribal interest in this area.</p>
	Shared/Recognised	<p>Popular camping ground easily accessible from Palmerston North and Manawatū Districts. Administered by Horizons as a Regional Park. Council interest in Tōtara Reserve is due to the ecological significance and recreational importance of the area. It is used by a wide range of visitors from Feilding and Palmerston North including school groups, scouts, guides and army platoons, as well as casual visitors. The reserve is also along the Manawatū Scenic Route, which is an alternative to SH1 and allows travellers to discover stunning scenery. The Tōtara Reserve Management Plan is in place and provisions should allow for implementation of this despite its identification as an ONF.</p>
Summary of Key Characteristics		<p>Coherence of indigenous vegetation cover of the landform from the valley floor to the top of the river terrace. High level of perceived naturalness due to the composition of the vegetated escarpments adjacent to</p>

	<p>the watercourse which contrast with the surrounding productive farmland. Popular camping and visitor area. A natural feature that is easily accessible by the public thereby enhancing public appreciation of natural features. Maintenance of tracks and public facilities should be facilitated and not discouraged through the planning process.</p>
<p>Potential Issues</p>	<p>The valley floor and terraces filled with native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational recreational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage adverse effects on cultural values; • discourage earthworks; and • restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 11 – RANGIWĀHIA (INCLUDING SCENIC RESERVE)



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Representative of a typical part of the rolling to steep hill country of the upper Ōroua River Valley, with the flat valley of Rangiwāhia Township to the north.
	Biological/Ecological	Indigenous forest remnant of over 50ha in the Rangiwāhia Scenic Reserve with very high ecological values and mauri, and represents the historic land cover of the area. Reserve provides habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife. Untouched, virgin podocarp forest with mature species including rimu, miro, mātai, maire, kahikatea, rewarewa and several species of rātā. This diversity of large forest species illustrates the reserve's healthy ecosystem and make it a rare feature in the largely deforested surrounding landscape, as well as a unique area for research and education.
	Hydrological	Uniquely, this ecological system was set aside as a water catchment for the growing town in Rangiwāhia by the early settlers. Surrounded by agricultural land use, with waters flowing into the Kiwitea Stream to the north and the Ōroua River to the south, with both joining together at Feilding.
Perceptual	Memorability	Memorable due to the strong contrast between the dense and tall original indigenous vegetated reserve and the surrounding agricultural land use.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Expressive of the indigenous vegetation that once covered the entire district.
	Transient	Transient value related to fauna of the forest.
	Aesthetic	Extensive indigenous vegetation throughout the reserve has a high degree of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape which results in a high scenic quality. The quality of indigenous vegetation cover has significance within the district through their rarity and is an excellent example of indigenous lowland forest.
	Naturalness	High degree of naturalness exhibited by the indigenous vegetation cover.
Associational	Historical	Set aside as a water catchment for supplying the original village of Rangiwāhia around 1860.
	Recreation	Walking tracks marked through the reserve for local recreation. It is also a known geocache site.

	Tangata Whenua	The reserve is an area of interest for Rangitāne o Manawatū, and Ngāti Hauiti. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata have identified a tribal interest in this area.
	Shared/Recognised	Focus of tracking and tree naming work by keen locals and supported by a grant from the Fonterra Grass Roots Fund.
Summary of Key Characteristics		High degree of perceived naturalness derived from extent of indigenous vegetation which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use. The indigenous vegetation contributes to the ecological and water quality values.
Potential Issues		The extensive and continuous expanse of native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage adverse effects on cultural values; • discourage earthworks; and • restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 12 – NITSCHKE/GORTON’S BUSH



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Representative of a deeply incised stream valley with steep sided faces and dense native vegetation which is characteristic of this area. Expressive of the erosion processes of the water catchment area which has cut through soft marine sedimentary layers.
	Biological/Ecological	Indigenous vegetation enhances ecological value, biodiversity, ecosystem functionality, and mauri. The feature is representative of land cover that was once common in the area but is no longer, making it a rare feature. It was a Recommended Area for Protection (RAP) in DOC's PNAP survey report (1995) and is listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002 - Appendix 1B) as Natural Area SA40. As part of DOC's survey research was undertaken on the vascular plants present in the area. The plant habitats range from very dry ridges through to dripping wet mudstone banks, and the vegetation from kānuka scrub and kānuka forest, with tōtara and kōwhai to patches of tall tawa and rimu.
	Hydrological	Riparian vegetation improves mauri and water quality from agricultural land runoff, adding to ecosystem health. Tributary to the Waituna Stream, which feeds into the Rangitikei River.
Perceptual	Memorability	Memorable feature due to the steeply incised gully spur terrain with its dense dark native vegetation which covers these gullies and their contrast with the modified folded/flattened landforms of the pastoral surrounds.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	A highly legible small scale topographical feature set within a simple landform of gently rolling pasture. The steeply incised gullies contrast with the relatively flat terrain of the surrounding landform. This contrast is accentuated by the variance in colour form and texture between the dark native vegetation within the gully and the light pasture grass of the surrounding landforms.
	Transient	Strong transient values are not readily apparent, although likely fauna values and microclimatic conditions in gullies.
	Aesthetic	Extensive indigenous vegetation throughout the valley system has a high degree of legibility and coherence which reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape. The combination of indigenous vegetation cover with the

		incised valley system has significant aesthetic appeal within the district through their rarity.
	Naturalness	Whilst the area is surrounded by a largely modified pastoral landscape, there is a high degree of naturalness within the gullies due to their containment and the extent of indigenous vegetation remnants.
Associational	Historical	Old tōtara stumps indicate past logging.
	Recreation	Limited opportunities for the public to experience this feature.
	Tangata Whenua	Under the relevant settlements the bush is an area of interest for both Ngāti Apa and Rangitāne o Manawatū. Ngāti Apa extensively used Waituna Stream for its plentiful fishing resources and built pa tuna or eel weirs in the stream. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata assert that they have identified an interest in this area.
	Shared/Recognised	Managed as a QEII National Trust property, the 200ha Nitschke Bush is recognised for its botanic values, although there remain ongoing management challenges due to its relative smallness and isolation and proximity to productive agricultural activities and potential weed sources. Large remnants of forest such as Nitschke’s Bush are rare on the Manawatū Plains, especially those with some flat terrain, and this area of bush gives a glimpse into the District’s pre-agricultural landscapes.
Summary of Key Characteristics		High degree of perceived naturalness derived from the combination of vegetation and expressiveness of the landform’s formative erosion processes. This feature stands out due to the contrast with the flatness of the surrounding agricultural land use. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation within the gully systems contribute to the botanical, ecological and aesthetic values.
Potential Issues		<p>The incised valley system with native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discourage the loss of native vegetation; discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; discourage adverse effects on cultural values; discourage earthworks; and restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 13 – PUKEPUKE LAGOON



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	<p>The formation of Pukepuke Lagoon is closely associated with the development of the Manawātū dune field, which forms part of New Zealand’s largest dune field. Pukepuke Lagoon is a dune wetland and, therefore, is representative of one of New Zealand’s most threatened and rare ecosystem types in New Zealand. The dune lake is a result of the formation of sand dunes along the coast near Tangimoana. Pukepuke Lagoon lies at the margin of a belt of stable sand dunes. The lagoon previously occupied a notably larger area to the northwest of its current, relatively recent location. Only a few dune lakes remain in the district, with Pukepuke Lagoon being one of two most notable ones. The lagoon is shallow and migrated eastward with sand movement. The sand dunes have now stabilised, and the shape and location of the lagoon is unlikely to change dramatically. The composition of the lake bed is sand and is likely underlain by silt/iron pan, however there are also areas of sandy gravel.</p>
	Biological/Ecological	<p>It is an important, diverse wetland habitat for over sixty bird species, including both native and introduced birds. A number of species rarely found elsewhere in the Region live at Pukepuke Lagoon, including the North Island fernbird, spotless crane, marsh crane, New Zealand shoveler and New Zealand scaup. The royal spoonbill and variable oystercatcher visit the wetland occasionally. Two rare Nationally Threatened and globally threatened species, the New Zealand dabchick and the Australasian Bittern, are also found here. Other birds reported seen at the lagoon include black swans, shags and New Zealand falcon. The New Zealand Ecological Society journal published an article on the ‘Use of Pukepuke Lagoon by Waterfowl’. The study looked at waterfowl population studies at the lagoon, which was the first such study in New Zealand at the time. The lagoon also has a large, scientifically and biologically important population of short finned eel. Long finned eel, brown mudfish and īnanga are also present. Weir systems have been improved to enable native fish species to swim into the lagoon, including eels.</p> <p>Three wetland herbs which are rare elsewhere in the Region have been found at Pukepuke Lagoon. These are <i>Hydrocotyle pterocarpa</i>, <i>Zannichellia palustris</i> and dwarf musk. The New Zealand Ecological Society journal also published an article on ‘The History and Present Vegetation of the Macrophyte Swamp at Pukepuke Lagoon’. Other articles published in the journal on</p>

		<p>studies undertaken on Pukepuke Lagoon include ferret biology, and the activity and dispersal of pūkeko.</p> <p>The New Zealand Wildlife Service researched waterfowl at Pukepuke until the late 1960s. In 2015, freshwater ecologists from NIWA carried out research on Pukepuke Lagoon, where they found plants growing across the bottom of the lagoon, which was predominately native, and is a good indicator of the ecology of the lagoon and a healthy ecosystem/ecosystem functioning. The ecologists were happy with the results and stated that the lagoon still held high biodiversity values. The same survey was carried out in 2001 and the vegetation results were almost the same, another good sign. They also compared their results to research conducted in 1978 and concluded that there has been no significant change in vegetation status or condition in those 25 years between the studies.</p>
	Hydrological	<p>The current lagoon’s catchment area of approximately 2,300ha consists of the upper Boss Stream catchment and the northern part of the original lagoon catchment. It is located four kilometres south of the lower Rangitikei River and approximately four kilometres from the coast. The lagoon is representative of the largest in a series of coastal lagoons, making it significant. Sand dunes prevent inland water runoff escaping out to sea. It contains a shallow lake up to two metres deep, drying out occasionally in summer droughts. Water quality and quantity is affected by surrounding farming activities. To prevent flooding of adjacent farmland, a sectioned weir has been constructed across the lagoon outlet. This helps to maintain water levels in the summer and minimises flooding in the winter. The coastal lake systems in the area connect with the ocean through Kaikōkopu Stream and the stream connected to Pukepuke Lagoon crossing the coastal margin. The care and protection of these coastal margins is integral to the health of the fisheries at the coastal margin itself and further inland. The diversity and health of the vegetation in the lagoon indicates that Pukepuke Lagoon’s water quality is high and that it is in very good condition with a healthy ecosystem.</p>
Perceptual	Memorability	<p>Memorable feature due to the expansive water of the lagoon and the dense vegetation which surrounds the water and contrasts with the textures and colours of the surrounding pastoral and plantation landscape.</p>
	Legibility/Expressiveness	<p>Expressive of the wetland habitat that once covered a much larger area in the district. A highly legible small scale landscape feature set within a mosaic of paddocks</p>

		and plantation forestry. This contrast is accentuated by the variance in texture and seasonal colour between the surrounding landforms.
	Transient	Migratory birds and seasonal colour changes and growth pattern with plants. Changing water levels with the seasons.
	Aesthetic	Expansive water body and intactness of remnant surrounding indigenous vegetation has a high degree of legibility and coherence which reinforces its vividness as a rare feature and provides a contrast to the surrounding modified landscape.
	Naturalness	Whilst the area is surrounded by a largely modified pastoral landscape, there is a high degree of naturalness within the lagoon area due to the extent of the lake and the indigenous vegetation remnants.
Associational	Historical	<p>Over the last century the area has been drained, contributing to the reduction of the wetland's size. When the Crown acquired the Pukepuke Reserve in the 1950s, the former Māori owners of the reserve negotiated the retention of fishing rights within the lagoon, with the agreement held under a deed of trust. That agreement is still honoured today, and the lagoon continues to be used by Parewanui hapū who make their journey to the lagoon to gather eels.</p> <p>In 1968, Pukepuke Lagoon became a wildlife management reserve through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and was managed by the Wildlife Division (Wildlife Service). The Wildlife Service wrote a management plan for the lagoon in 1977, which was later expanded on in 1987 and included objectives and policies for Pukepuke Lagoon. In 1987, with the formation of DOC, management shifted from the Wildlife Division to DOC, renaming the lagoon from Pukepuke Wildlife Reserve to Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area.</p>
	Recreation	Pukepuke Lagoon House is available for accommodation for those visiting the site. There are also bird hides for viewing birds and wildlife watching, as well as a short walkway which includes a boardwalk. Gamebird hunting ballots are held for duck shooting on the lagoon. Access has remained relatively restricted, which has been thought to have assisted in the lagoon retaining its relatively good health and diversity.
	Tangata Whenua	Under the relevant settlements the lagoon is an area of interest and statutory acknowledgement area for both

		<p>Ngāti Apa and Rangitāne o Manawatū.</p> <p>The lagoon provided resources such as harakeke, īnanga, eels and birds. Land Court records pertaining to the Hīmatangi Block reveal that the area was an important source of eel, fern root, kōkopu, kōkō (tūī), kererū and kiekie. Numerous cultivations were situated along the coast, particularly Hīmatangi. A variety of native and migrating birds were located in the wetlands, lagoons, lakes and swamps at Hīmatangi and Pukepuke. Rangitāne o Manawatū oral histories record a number of battles occurring in the vicinity and over the lagoon.</p> <p>Pukepuke lagoon is within the domain of Ngāti Kauae of Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Taurira. It formed one of a chain of defensive wetland and lake based pā starting with Te Awamate north of Rangitikei, to Te Awahou on the Rangitikei River, to Pukepuke, to Omanuka, to Kaikōkopu and to Koputara. In particular, Pukepuke belonged to the Ngā Potiki and Ngāti Rangiwaho sections of Ngāti Taurira. The fortified pā at Pukepuke was situated on an island in the lake. Use of the lake was often seasonal, but at times the hapū lived here more permanently. Even after colonisation, the hapū visited the area seasonally to gather food. Significant battles and events occurred at the pā which have shaped Ngāti Apa’s history in the area.</p> <p>Lakes Ōmanuka, Pukepuke and Kaikōkopu provided valuable mahinga kai and an abundance of tuna (eel) to Rangitāne o Manawatū in the early times. They are the places where Rangitāne o Manawatū would stop overnight to replenish food stocks and to rest while travelling between Rangitikei and Manawatū. Rangitāne o Manawatū own a property immediately adjacent to Pukepuke which they are undertaking reforestation of.</p> <p>Ngāti Kauwhata have identified interests in the Lagoon between State Highway One and the Manawatū Coastline.</p>
	Shared/Recognised	<p>The lagoon has been described as one of the district’s natural treasures (recorded in a newspaper article in the 2002 ‘Manawatū District State of the Environment Report’) and is recognised under the MDC District Plan, Map fourteen, as a Conservation Area and under Appendix 1 – Heritage Places. Numerous articles on research undertaken at Pukepuke Lagoon have been published in the New Zealand Ecological Society journal, as well as an article in the Notornis: Journal of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and New Zealand Journal of Zoology. Research on Pukepuke Lagoon is included in the book by Joseph J. Kerekes titled</p>

		‘Developments in Hydrobiology: Aquatic Birds in the Trophic Web of Lakes’. Pukepuke Lagoon is also recorded on the ‘Protected Planet’ website, which is managed by the United Nations Environment Conservation Monitoring Centre with support from IUCN and its World Commission on Protected Areas.
Summary of Key Characteristics		Pukepuke Lagoon has a range of scientific attributes (landforms, flora and fauna), along with significant historical, cultural and recreational values. High degree of natural character derived from the ecological health of the lagoon, including the presence of many bird species (some rare), healthy native vegetation, and good water quality. This feature stands out due to the modified surrounding agricultural and plantation forestry land use. Areas of riparian vegetation within the area and the open water of the lake contribute to the botanical, ecological and aesthetic values. High cultural associational values are recognised as part of the ONF values.
Potential Issues		<p>The open water and remnant native vegetation defines the feature and contributes the natural character, perceived naturalness, aesthetic values, and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discourage the loss of native vegetation; • discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; • discourage adverse effects on cultural values; • discourage earthworks; and • restrict built development.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURE 14 – LAKE KAIKŌKOPU



Characteristics and Values_of Outstanding Natural Landscape		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Basin-type dune lake formed at the boundary of two dune forming phases. Shallow lake with a sandy bottom. Lake Kaikōkopu is a dune wetland and, therefore, is representative of one of New Zealand’s most threatened and rare ecosystem types in New Zealand.
	Biological/Ecological	Indigenous raupō and Carex secta comprise the majority of the lake’s vegetation, however crack willow is also present, which reduces the ecological integrity of the area. In recent times, Horizons (Manawatū-Wanganui) Regional Council has cited the importance of the connected Kaikōkopu Stream for native fish spawning, as well as for redfin bullies. Due to the migratory nature of these species the protection of the connecting water systems is important in retaining and further enhancing what remnant native fishery there is. The lake is an important breeding and feeding area for two rare, threatened species of waterfowl, the New Zealand dabchick and Australasian bittern. It is important for a number of other bird species, reflecting the lake’s ecosystem functionality and mauri.
	Hydrological	Shallow lake that has an inlet stream (Kaikōkopu Stream) and an outflow through the dunes to the nearby ocean. Seventy-five percent of the lake is open water. Due to Kaikōkopu Stream’s shallow depth and low flows for much of the summer period E. coli concentrations can breach contact recreation guidelines at times, especially following rainfall, reducing the mauri of the water. However, in 2016 the Kaikōkopu Stream Revitalisation Project was undertaken which included riparian planting. Since this project, the stream has performed better hydrologically and future research through fish surveys will be used to determine ecological conditions of the stream.
Perceptual	Memorability	Expansive water of the lake and riparian vegetation which surrounds the water contrasts with the textures and colours of the surrounding pastoral and plantation forestry landscape.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Expressive of the wetland habitat that once covered a much larger area in the district.
	Transient	Migratory birds and seasonal colour changes and growth pattern with plants.
	Aesthetic	Significant aesthetic appeal as a result of the vividness of the lake, which provides a general pattern of land

		cover coherence, combined with the remnant riparian vegetation.
	Naturalness	A moderate degree of perceived naturalness exists within the lake due to the presence of the combination of indigenous vegetation and its open body of water. This character is however degraded by the extent of pastoral farming, drainage and plantation forestry which surrounds the area.
Associational	Historical	Some afforestation has been undertaken in the surrounding area, primarily for revenue purposes but also to stabilise the land.
	Recreation	Lake Kaikōkopu is privately-managed for gamebird hunting.
	Tangata Whenua	<p>Under the Settlement Act, Lake Kaikōkopu is an area of interest for Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Apa.</p> <p>Lake Kaikōkopu is located within Hīmatangi. The correct hyphenation of the word is said not to be Hima-tangi but Hī-matangi. “Hī” means to fish, and Matangi was a chief who lived in the mystic past in the Mōhaka District of the East Coast. The name also refers to Matangi capturing and slaying a taniwha in the area upon his settlement. Hīmatangi was famous for the abundance of birds and eels available from the wetlands and dune lakes in the area, namely one of these was Lake Kaikōkopu. As a result of the early land transactions between the Crown and Ngāti Apa (North Island), access to many of the resources along the coastal area became very difficult and limited. Reserves were established around coastal lakes, including Lake Kaikōkopu, but no legal access was provided for these land areas. Traditionally, Lake Kaikōkopu was accessed mainly for tuna but also for kōkopu, mudfish, inanga and kākahi (freshwater mussel).</p> <p>Lake Kaikōkopu is a remnant of what was once a much larger wetland. Several Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Tauira whānau have retained ownership in two nearby Māori freehold blocks that were once on the banks of the lake. Ancestors of these landowners thought that they owned the lake, and the lake was generally referred to as Hunia lake after a prominent Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Tauira leader named Kāwana Hunia. His son Wirihana was in the practice of leasing access to the lake for duck shooting well before it was understood that the legal ownership of the lake had actually been transferred to settlers. One of these blocks contains the location of the Te Oahura pā which belonged to Kawana Te Hakeke and his division of Ngāti Kauae. This pā was heavily</p>

		<p>utilised during seasonal eel fishing and the harvesting of other varieties of kai, including manu. Lake Kaikokopu is one of a series of Ngāti Kauae and Ngāti Tauira lakes and fortified pā sites extending from Te Awamate north of the Rangitīkei, to Te Awahou on the Rangitīkei River, to Omanuka, to Pukepuke, to Kaikokopu and as far south as Koputara.</p> <p>Lake Kaikōkopu provided valuable mahinga kai and an abundance of tuna (eels) to Rangitāne o Manawatū in the past. It was a place that Rangitāne o Manawatū would stop overnight to replenish food stocks and to rest while travelling between Rangitīkei and Manawatū.</p> <p>Ngāti Kauwhata have reported interests in this area.</p>
	Shared/Recognised	Listed as a heritage place under Appendix 1 of the MDC District Plan. Recognised as having outstanding landscape values and therefore recognised as an outstanding waterbody under the Draft NPS for Freshwater Management. The significant values of outstanding waterbodies are to be protected (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2019 Policy 10).
Summary of Key Characteristics		Moderate degree of perceived naturalness derived from the presence of indigenous vegetation combined with the expressiveness of the lake which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural and plantation forestry land use. The rarity of this habitat type, its rare fauna species and high cultural associations, its remnant hydrological connectivity with Pukepuke Lagoon and other dune lakes along the coastal edge all elevate this remnant dune lake and wetland to be considered an Outstanding Natural Feature.
Potential Issues		<p>The open water and remnant native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to perceived naturalness, aesthetic values, and associational factors. It would assist preservation of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restrict adverse effects on cultural values; • limit the loss of native vegetation; • limit the establishment of exotic vegetation; • limit earthworks and drainage; and • limit built development.

Appendix 3 NFL- APP2 Significant Amenity Features Tables (PC(C) Decision)

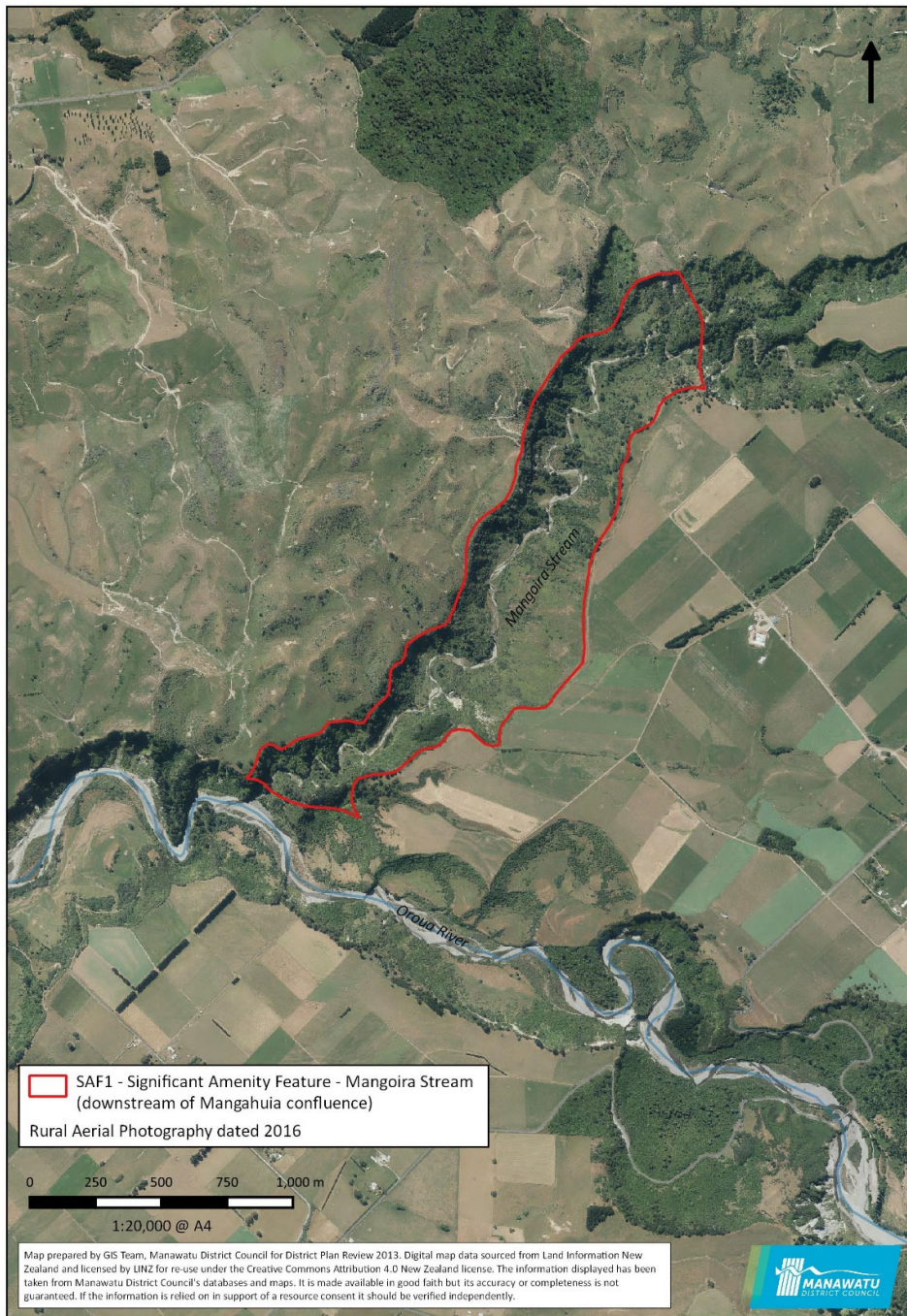
NFL – APP2 – SIGNIFICANT AMENITY FEATURES

NFL – APP2 describes the individual natural, perceptual and associational values of all listed Significant Amenity Features.

The intention of listing individual values within NFL-APP2 of the Manawatū District Plan is to provide support to plan users in determining the extent of a proposed activity's potential effects within a Significant Amenity Feature.

It is important for plan users to note that Iwi accounts of tribal affiliations may vary throughout NFL-APP2. This reflects the different narratives of Iwi for the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape. The Council has intentionally preserved each account to ensure the integrity of Iwi information provided is maintained.

SIGNIFICANT AMENITY FEATURE 1 – MANGOIRA STREAM



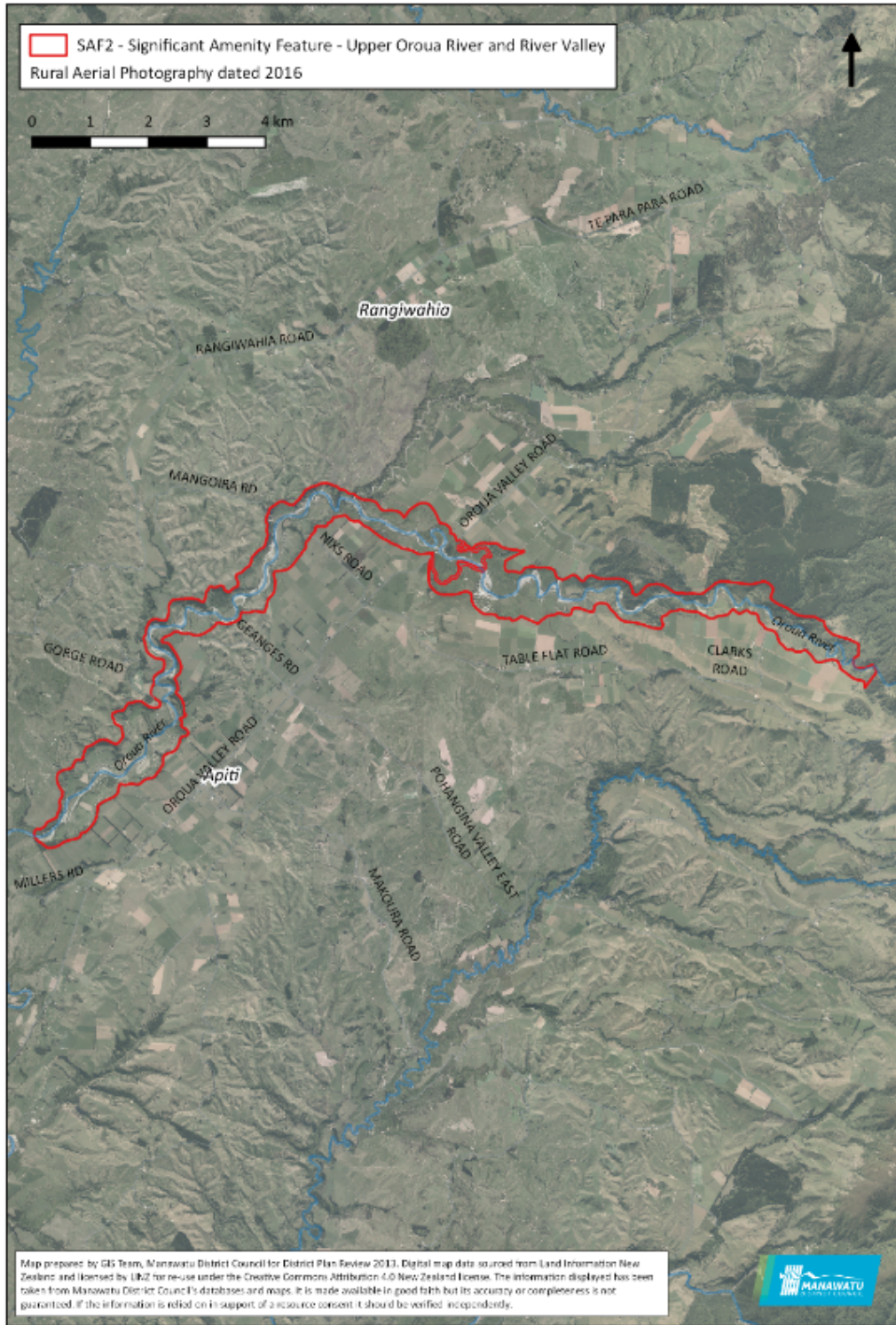
Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Significant Amenity Feature		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Incised stream valley with steep sided faces. Representative of the erosion processes of the water catchment area which has cut through the soft marine sedimentary layers.
	Biological/Ecological	Mix of exotic and indigenous vegetation. Ecological value is reduced by the presence of pasture in the valley. A research survey undertaken on vascular plants of the Mangoira Stream marginal strip showed that, of native species, shrubland is dominant on the terrace faces with some older podocarps scattered throughout the lower half of the stream valley. Sedgeland occupies the wetter slopes. These older podocarps are rare in the Manawatū due to past extensive deforestation. Further downstream, on the river floodplain, red beech and divaricate shrubs are present. Podocarps also occur amongst the beech above the floodplain, forming a mixed podocarp-broadleaf forest. This area contains the Mangoira/Ōroua Confluence Bush listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002), Appendix 1B (SA10).
	Hydrological	Riparian vegetation improves water quality from agricultural land runoff and contributes to ecosystem health and mauri. River floodplain appears to flood regularly. Traditionally Māori celebrated flooding as it is a means of nourishing the land and all living on it with mauri from the surrounding landscape, transported through the flood waters.
Perceptual	Memorability	The valley system contrasts with the modified pastoral landscape and is more dramatic than the surrounding folded/ terraced landforms.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Clearly legible incised valley system that is expressive of the erosion processes that have occurred within the raised sedimentary landform.
	Transient	Possible fauna values and likely microclimatic conditions in gullies.
	Aesthetic	Significant aesthetic appeal as a result of the combination of remnant native vegetation, which provides a pattern of land cover coherence contrasted by the surrounding agricultural land use, and the vividness of the eroded valley system that has been formed by the incised river valley.
	Naturalness	Naturalness is degraded by the presence of pastoral farmland on the slopes of the valley.

Associational	Historical	Unknown.
	Recreation	While there are DOC tramping tracks further east upstream, outside of the boundaries of the SAF, there are none within the SAF, limiting public access. Mangoira Stream has been known to be used for riverbed four-wheel driving.
	Tangata Whenua	Tributary to the Ōroua River, which has extensive cultural associations for Māori. Under the Settlement Act the stream is an area of interest for both Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Hauti. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata have identified that this area is identified as part of the Ōroua River Catchment of which Ngāti Kauwhata has interest.
	Shared/Recognised	The western escarpment rising up out of the water course is recognised as a Conservation Area within the District Plan and is within DOC control.
Summary of Key Characteristics		More modified than an ONF in terms of vegetation cover and presence of pasture. Moderate degree of perceived naturalness derived from the existing native vegetation combined with the expressiveness of the formative processes of the stream corridor landform which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use and flatter landform.
Potential Issues		<p>The incised river channel with partial cover of native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist maintenance of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict adverse effects on cultural values; • limit the loss of native vegetation; • limit the establishment of exotic vegetation; • limit earthworks; and • limit built development.

SIGNIFICANT AMENITY FEATURE 2 – UPPER ŌROUA RIVER AND RIVER VALLEY

NFL – APP2 – Significant Amenity Features



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Characteristics and Values of Significant Amenity Feature		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Deeply incised stream valleys with steep sided faces. Representative of the erosion processes of the water catchment area which has cut through soft marine sedimentary layers leaving old ox-bows and exposed papa mudstone escarpments.
	Biological/Ecological	Mix of exotic and indigenous vegetation. Ecological value is reduced by the presence of pasture in the valley. This area contains the Hopkins Property which is listed in the District Plan (Operative 2002), Appendix 1B (SA37). Trout has been recorded in the Ōroua River. Abuts Ruahine Range ONL but identified as a separate SAF due to different (river) character compared to Ruahine Range character.
	Hydrological	The Ōroua River is one of the main rivers flowing out of western Ruahine Forest Park. Riparian vegetation improves water quality from agricultural land runoff, contributing to ecosystem health and mauri. Received 2018 New Zealand River Award for demonstrating long-term trend improvements in water quality, specifically in relation to dissolved reactive phosphorus. Information based on research data for the river collated by LAWA. The Ōroua River was the most improved in the Horizons Region, making it a unique waterbody in the area with enhanced ecosystem functionality.
Perceptual	Memorability	Memorable due to the dramatic geomorphology with bends and escarpments which contrast with the folded/terraced landforms of the surrounding pastoral landscape.
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Clearly legible landform features very expressive of the erosion processes of the river, with 'empty' scalloped oxbows and white papa escarpments providing historical references to shifts in the river.
	Transient	Possible fauna values and likely microclimatic conditions in gullies.
	Aesthetic	Significant aesthetic appeal as a result of the native vegetation, which provides a general pattern of land cover coherence, combined with the striking scale of the incised river valley with its old river bends and vivid white cliff escarpments.
	Naturalness	Whilst the area is surrounded by a largely modified pastoral landscape, a moderate degree of perceived naturalness exists within the gullies due to the presence

		of mudstone cliffs and indigenous vegetation. This character is, however, reduced by the extent of pastoral farming on both the valley slopes and valley floor.
Associational	Historical	Slightly upstream, to the east of the SAF boundary, is the Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge. This is only of historic associational value only and does not affect the extent of the SAF. Access to the lodge is via a track which was a former logging road, indicating past forestry activities in the area.
	Recreation	Public walking tracks, camping, hunting, and fishing. Just to the east upstream, outside the boundary of the SAF, is the Iron Gate Gorge, Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge, and Iron Gate Hut Track.
	Tangata Whenua	<p>Under the Settlement Act the SAF is an area of interest for Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Hauiti. Ngāti Tūwharetoa are also acknowledged under the Settlement Act, and Ngāti Kauwhata in the Ōroua Declaration in relation to the area. Ngāti Apa (North Island) acknowledge that other iwi have interests in the Ōroua River. These include Ngāti Kauwhata, Ngāti Hauiti and Rangitāne. Ngāti Taurira was a shared Rangitāne – Ngāti Apa hapū located around the Ōroua River above Mangawhata (meaning eel drying), extending to the Rangitīkei River and coastal area. Ngāti Apa (North Island) is linked to the Ōroua River through the ancestor Matangi. Flocks of birds would gather along the river and occupy certain areas. Matangi heard of this and travelled from the Wairarapa region to see these birds. As he drew near the birds would take flight and soar into the sky, hence naming the surrounding land on the lower left bank of the Ōroua River 'Aorangi'. Hapū of Ngāti Apa (North Island) - Ngāti Tumokai, Ngāti Taurira, and Ngāti Rakei, and Ngāti Apu - occupied the surrounding lands of the Ōroua River. The land was fertile and would be cultivated extensively by these hapū. Kāinga, pā, urupā, and eel fisheries were located along the Ōroua River.</p> <p>The Ōroua River is of historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū. The histories and traditions of Rangitāne o Manawatū such as waiata, kōrero and whakairo outline the connections Rangitāne o Manawatū have with the Ōroua River. One of the most significant qualities is the mauri that flows from the central Ruahine Range through the rohe connecting the Range to the wetlands and sand country and finally to the Manawatū River. This fertile land also contained some of the richest food supplies in the Manawatū Region, with the most desired item being tuna (eel) which could be caught in huge quantities</p>

		<p>from the waters of the swamps adjacent to the riverbanks and streams. Other traditional resources gathered along the river included the mountain cabbage (tōi, Cordyline indivisa) and harvesting of medicinal plants.</p> <p>Ngāti Kauwhata have stated that Ngāti Kauwhata have significant interests from the top of the Ōroua to it's confluence at the Manawatū. Ngāti Kauwhata iwi have lived on the Ōroua river since 1828.</p> <p>Rangitāne o Manawatū have statutory acknowledgement over the upper Oroua River, riparian margins and rivers are intimately linked therefore the statutory acknowledgement pertains to vegetation, landforms and impacts adjacent to the river.</p>
	<p>Shared/Recognised</p>	<p>The Ōroua River was the recipient of a 2018 New Zealand River Award from Accord member Horizons Regional Council. The awards were judged by a panel of scientists using long-term data collected from New Zealand Rivers and awarded to rivers which showed long-term trend improvements in water quality. The Ōroua Catchment Care Group, through the leadership of Ngāti Kauwhata representatives, are partnering with landowners in river quality improvement work, such as riparian planting and fencing. Additionally, the area is along the Manawatū Scenic Route, which is an alternative to SH1 and allows travellers to discover stunning scenery.</p>
<p>Summary of Key Characteristics</p>	<p>More modified than an ONF in terms of vegetation cover and presence of pasture. Moderate degree of perceived naturalness derived from the expressiveness of the formative processes of the river corridor landform which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural landform. Areas of indigenous riparian vegetation contribute to the perceived naturalness and ecological and water quality values. A pole transmission line crosses the river valley at Āpiti Reserve linking Ōroua Valley Road and Main South Road and does not adversely affect the key characteristics of the Amenity Area.</p>	
<p>Potential Issues</p>	<p>The incised river channel, with large areas of native vegetation defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist preservation of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restrict adverse effects on cultural values; • limit the loss of native vegetation; • limit the establishment of exotic vegetation; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• limit earthworks; and• limit built development.
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SIGNIFICANT AMENITY FEATURE 3 – MAKIEKIE CREEK



Version 10: 14 January 2019

Characteristics and Values of Significant Amenity Feature		
Natural Science	Geological/ Geomorphological	Incised stream valley with steep sided faces. Representative of the erosion processes of the water catchment area which has cut through soft marine sedimentary layers.
	Biological/Ecological	<p>Mix of exotic and indigenous vegetation. Ecological value is reduced by the presence of pasture in the valley. There are indigenous forest remnants in Makiekie Reserve and on the valley sides. These enhance ecological value, increase ecosystem health and mauri, while also creating a habitat for indigenous and exotic birdlife. The forest includes an interesting mix of conifer and broad-leaf species, as well as beech forest. In the Makiekie Scenic Reserve large rimu and tōtara are plentiful. There are also mature red beech trees up to 35m tall in some places, as well as younger, regenerated stands that have come up following wind damage. Due to large scale deforestation in the District areas of remnant native bush, such as in this SAF, are rare for the area and are representative of what land cover used to look like.</p> <p>Horizons Regional Council recommends Makiekie Creek for trout fishery value in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region. Makiekie Creek was also included in a published research article by Michael K. Joy and Russell G. Death who undertook a biological assessment of rivers in the Manawatū-Whanganui region investing macroinvertebrates.</p>
	Hydrological	Riparian vegetation improves water quality from agricultural land runoff, contributing to ecosystem health and mauri of this area and the wider catchment downstream.
Perceptual	Memorability	Contrasts with the modified pastoral landscape and is more dramatic than surrounding folded/terraced landforms
	Legibility/Expressiveness	Complex landform feature which is expressive of the erosion processes of the river.
	Transient	Possible fauna values and likely microclimatic conditions in gullies.
	Aesthetic	Significant aesthetic appeal as a result of the native vegetation, which provides a general pattern of land cover coherence, combined with the striking scale of the incised river valley with its old river bends and vivid white cliff escarpments.

	Naturalness	Whilst the area is surrounded by a largely modified pastoral landscape, a moderate degree of perceived naturalness exists within the gullies due to the presence of the combination of indigenous vegetation and the meandering river course, and mudstone cliffs. This character is however degraded by the extent of pastoral farming on both the valley slopes and valley floor.
Associational	Historical	Unknown.
	Recreation	Upstream, east of the SAF boundary, Makiekie Creek forms part of a DOC tramping route, Deerford Track to Makiekie Creek, which is used for both walking and hunting. While outside the identified extent of the SAF, this indicates the associative values relating to the wider area. There are no DOC tracks within the SAF itself, limiting public access.
	Tangata Whenua	Under the Settlement Act Makiekie Creek is an area of interest for Rangitāne o Manawatū and Ngāti Hauiti. Makiekie Creek is a tributary to Pōhangina River, which was known by Māori as a place of darkness and with a degree of fear attached to the area because of previous bloodshed. Another level of meaning was the very ulcerated or dissected nature of the landscape itself, lots of little streams with valleys cutting down in to the area. Makiekie Creek was also a source of vivianite, a mineral that was used as a blue pigment for the face painting of warriors for battle. This was the only source for Rangitāne o Manawatū and so was of military significance. In a general sense, Tikanga Māori Principles such as Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship), Wairua (Well-being) and Mauri (Life force) are important. Ngāti Kauwhata have stated that this an identified area of interest.
	Shared/Recognised	Adjacent to the Makiekie Scenic Reserve, recognised for its ecological and scenic values. Additionally, the area is along the Manawatū Scenic Route, which is an alternative to SH1 and allows travellers to discover stunning scenery.
Summary of Key Characteristics		Moderate degree of perceived naturalness derived from the presence of indigenous vegetation combined with the expressiveness of the formative erosion processes which contrasts with the surrounding agricultural land use and terraced form.
Potential Issues		The incised river channel, with large areas of native vegetation, defines the feature and contributes to the

	<p>perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist preservation of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• restrict adverse effects on cultural values;• limit the loss of native vegetation;• limit the establishment of exotic vegetation;• limit earthworks; and• limit built development.
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Appendix 4 - Amended Chapter 3A Network Utilities and 3D Earthworks (PC (C) Decision)

3 DISTRICT WIDE RULES

3.1 Introduction

This chapter contains provisions that apply in the Manawatū District relating to:

- Network utilities
- Transport
- Noise
- **Earthworks**
- Signage
- **Temporary activities**
- **Relocated buildings**

This chapter is intended to be read in conjunction with the relevant zoning provisions. Where specific rules are included in the relevant zoning rules, then those rules apply (unless otherwise referenced in this chapter).

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3A NETWORK UTILITIES

3A.1 Introduction

Network utilities, including **infrastructure of regional and national importance**, are an essential part of the District's infrastructure. Communities rely on network utilities to function. It is therefore critical the development, operation, upgrading and maintenance of these essential services are managed appropriately to ensure the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of those in the District and beyond. Such infrastructure, services and facilities can also create significant direct or indirect adverse environmental **effects**, some of which may be quite specific to the utility. Due to their locational, technical and operational constraints, some utilities may generate adverse **effects** that cannot be practically avoided, remedied or mitigated. As such, these **effects** need to be balanced against the essential nature of facilities and the benefits these utilities provide to the social, economic, health and safety and wellbeing of people and communities in the Manawatū District and beyond.

The **National Grid** is managed and regulated in part by the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 (NPSET) and the Resource Management (National

Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities (NESETA). The NPSET came into **effect** on 13 March 2008 and recognises the national significance of the **National Grid** in its entirety. The PSET facilitates the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the existing **National Grid** network and the establishment of new **National Grid** assets. The District Plan is required to give **effect** to the NPSET.

The NESETA came into **effect** on 14 January 2010. The NESETA sets out a national framework for permissions and consent requirements for activities on **National Grid** lines existing at 14 January 2010. Activities include the operation, maintenance and upgrading of existing lines but exclude the development of new lines and substations. The NESETA must not be in conflict with nor duplicate the provisions of the NESETA.

Telecommunication and **Radiocommunication** facilities are in part managed under the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for **Telecommunication** Facilities) Regulations 2016 (NESTF). The NESTF provides a nationally consistent planning framework for a wide range of **telecommunication** facilities in locations inside and outside the **road** reserve. **Telecommunication** facilities not covered by the NESTF 2016 are controlled under the District Plan.

The Manawatū Wanganui **Regional Council**'s One Plan also provides for the regional and national importance of a range of infrastructure in the region. The Regional Policy Statement section of the One Plan (RPS) requires that **councils** recognise, and have regard to the benefits that derive from regionally and nationally important infrastructure and utilities, and that the establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading of such infrastructure be provided for in the District Plan. The RPS also requires that the **Council** ensure that adverse **effects** from other activities on **network utility** infrastructure are avoided as reasonably practicable.

This chapter provides clarification to **network utility** operators for activities that can be undertaken without a resource consent, and the parameters these activities must comply with. The District Plan provides for a large range of works to be permitted subject to performance standards.

Subdivision, use and development can adversely impact surrounding network utilities. Therefore, additional provisions relating to setbacks from key network utilities are included in the Chapter 8 - Subdivision. **Earthworks** when undertaken in proximity to network utilities can undermine the infrastructure asset. Provisions restricting **earthworks** near some network utilities are contained in the **earthworks** section of this chapter.

The provisions in 3A of the District Wide Rules Chapter address the development and maintenance of network utilities. The intention is that Chapter 3A will be standalone at the completion of the Sectional District Plan Review. There are some chapters and zones where provisions may apply (for example setbacks) until the Sectional District Plan Review progress has been completed. As other chapters and provisions are reviewed, relevant provisions will be included or cross referenced to Chapter 3A, and those

reviewed chapters will cease to apply. When completed, the rules in this chapter (including any cross referenced) will supersede the zone rules. Zone rules will only apply if specifically stated in Chapter 3A.

For the avoidance of doubt, Network Utility activities within ONFLs will only be assessed under the provisions of Chapter 3A and not the underlying zoning in which they are located.

Note: There are some existing rules that identify subdivision and land use to be setback from **Network Utility** infrastructure and these continue to apply as outlined in other chapters in the District Plan until those provisions are reviewed.

Guidance Note: Plan Users are directed to Chapter 8 Residential Zone, Rule 8.4.1.g for additional provisions that apply to Network Utilities with respect to infrastructure being located underground.

3A.2 Resource Management Issues

The following resource management issues have been identified in relation to network utilities:

1. To provide for the safe, effective and efficient operation, maintenance, **replacement** and upgrade of network utilities, including **infrastructure of regional and national importance**.
2. Recognising that network utilities have technical and operational requirements that may dictate their location and design.
3. The safe, effective and efficient operation, maintenance, **replacement** and upgrading and **planned development** of network utilities can be put at risk by inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
4. The need to balance the visual amenity **effects** of network utilities against their locational needs.
5. The need to manage the disposal of solid waste material by reusing and recycling where possible, while avoiding the use of contaminated soils.
6. Recognising the constraints on existing network utilities when considering new development.
7. Potential **effects** from electromagnetic and other forms of radiation.
8. The location, operation and maintenance, **replacement** upgrading of network utilities can create adverse **effects** on the **environment**.

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3A.3 Objectives and Policies

Objective 1

To ensure:

- a. **Network utility** infrastructure of national and regional importance, including the **National Grid**, is able to operate, upgrade and develop efficiently and effectively while managing any adverse **effects** in the **environment** having regard to the locational, technical and operational constraints of the infrastructure.
- b. All other network utilities are designed, located, constructed, operated, upgraded and maintained in a manner that ensures the efficient use of **natural and physical resources** while recognising the **environment** they are located in.

Policies

- 1.1 To enable the establishment, operation, maintenance, **replacement**, and **minor upgrading** of network utilities.
- 1.2 To encourage **network utility** operators to coordinate and co-locate services or

to locate within the existing roading network where practicable.

- 1.3 To encourage all new cables and lines, including electricity distribution lines (but not the **National Grid**) are installed underground.
- 1.4 To recognise the locational, technical and operational requirements and constraints of network utilities and the contribution they make to the functioning and wellbeing of the community and beyond when assessing their location, design and appearance.
- 1.5 To ensure network utilities are constructed and located in a manner sensitive to the amenity and landscape values where they are located, including those areas identified as Significant Amenity Features in NFL-APP2.

Objective 2

To protect network utilities in the district, and in particular nationally and regionally important infrastructure, including the **National Grid**, by avoiding the adverse **effects** of subdivision use and development and other land use activities on the operation, maintenance, **replacement**, and upgrading of the existing network utilities and **planned development** of new network utilities.

Policies

- 2.1 To ensure that any vegetation is planted and maintained to avoid interference with network utilities, including transmission lines and the **National Grid Yard**.
- 2.2 To require that appropriate separation of activities is maintained to enable the safe operation, maintenance, **replacement** and upgrading, and avoid **reverse sensitivity** and/or manage risk issues.
- 2.3 To ensure all subdivision and development is designed to avoid adverse **effects** on the operation, access, maintenance, **replacement** and upgrading of existing or **planned development** of network utilities.
- 2.4 To manage the **effects** of subdivision, development and land use on the safe, effective and efficient operation, maintenance, **replacement** and upgrading of the **National Grid** by ensuring that:
 - a. Areas are identified in the Plan to establish safe buffer distances for managing subdivision and land use development near the **National Grid**.
 - b. **Sensitive activities**, and **intensive farming** are excluded from establishing within the **National Grid Yard**.
 - c. Non-**sensitive activities** within the **National Grid Yard** are managed so that the **National Grid** is not compromised.
 - d. Subdivision is managed around the **National Grid Corridor** to avoid subsequent land use from restricting the operation, maintenance and

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upgrading of the **National Grid**.

- e. Changes to existing activities within a **National Grid Yard** do not further restrict the operation, maintenance and upgrading of the **National Grid**.

Objective 3

The characteristics and values of the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in Appendix NFL-APP1 and historic heritage identified in Appendix 1F and 1E, are protected from the inappropriate use and-development of new network utilities.

Policies

- 3.1 To avoid significant adverse cumulative effects from new network utilities on the characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.
- 3.2 To avoid new utilities in Buildings and Objects with Heritage Value in Appendix 1E and Sites with Heritage Value in Appendix 1F, unless
 - a. Avoidance is not reasonably practicable; and
 - b. There are no significant adverse effects on the site.
- 3.3 To avoid utilities in Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features in Appendix NFL-APP1 unless that infrastructure is of national or regional importance and only then if:
 - a. Avoidance is not reasonably practicable and that is demonstrated by a thorough options analysis, recognising the functional and operational need of the Network Utility; and
 - b. Adverse effects are remedied or mitigated using best practicable options; and
 - c. Policy 3.1 is satisfied.
- 3.4 To provide for the operation, maintenance, replacement or minor upgrading of existing network utilities located within or adjacent to Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.
- 3.5 To avoid inappropriate use and development of new network utilities within Outstanding Natural Landscapes which adversely affects the identified values and characteristics of the areas, and adverse effects are unable to be mitigated or remedied, including:
 - a. The extensive unbuilt coastal strip along the Manawatū Coastline Outstanding Natural Landscape.
 - b. The unmodified and continuous indigenous vegetation values and the ridges and hilltops of the Ruahine Ranges Outstanding Natural Landscape.
- 3.6 To recognise the benefits of the National Grid by providing for the major upgrade or development of new National Grid Electricity infrastructure in an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape by seeking to avoid adverse effects on the characteristics and values of the feature or landscape by ensuring route, site and

method selection demonstrates that, to the extent practicable having regard to the functional, operational and technical needs of the National Grid, in order of preference:

- a. Infrastructure will be located outside of an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.
- b. Where a. cannot be achieved, infrastructure will be located in the more compromised parts of the Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape; and
- c. Techniques (such as structure selection) will be used to avoid adverse effects; and
- d. Adverse effects that cannot be avoided will be remedied or mitigated.

Guidance Note: Objective 3 and Policies 3.1 to 3.5 apply to network utility activities undertaken in areas identified within Appendix NFL-APP1 as an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape. With the exception of Policy 3.3, Objective 3 and Policies 3.1 to 3.5 do not apply to network utility activities located outside an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape identified in Appendix NFL-APP1. In the event of inconsistency or conflict between Policies 3.1-3.5 and other objectives and policies within the Plan, Policies 3.1 to 3.5 will take precedence.

3A.3 Rules

Rules in this chapter apply District-wide and the chapter needs to be read in conjunction with the other District Wide Rules, the District Plan maps, relevant appendices and depending on the progress of the Sectional District Plan Review at the time an application is lodged, any relevant provisions of the applicable zone.

Note: The provisions in the District Wide Rules Chapter are intended to be standalone for the development and maintenance of Network Utilities upon completion of the Sectional District Plan Review. There are some chapters and zones where provisions may apply (for example setbacks). The new provisions will be included or cross referenced to Chapter 3A of the District Wide Rules Chapter as the Sectional District Plan Review progresses. Provisions in the rules of the District Plan that may apply until they are reviewed include, but are not limited to, the relevant noise provisions in the Manfeild Park and Special Development Zone, subdivision provisions, special yard requirements in the Residential Zone, **buildings** clear of drains in the Village and Rural Zone, and roading impacts on the Rural Zone and Flood Channel Zones.

Guidance Note: Plan Users are directed to Chapter 8 Residential Zone, Rule 8.4.1.g for additional provisions that apply to Network Utilities with respect to infrastructure being located underground. [PC51]³

³ PC51 decision of hearing panel. Has legal effect but is not yet operative.

3A.3.1 Permitted Activities

The following network utilities are **Permitted Activities** throughout the District, provided that they comply with the standards in Rule 3A.4.2 below:

- a. The operation, maintenance, **replacement**, or **minor upgrading** or repair of lawfully established or consented network utilities, or those that are existing as at 22 February 2017.
- b. Construction, operation, maintenance, realignment and upgrading of roads and railway lines within the **road** reserve or railway corridor.
- c. The construction, operation, maintenance, **replacement** and **minor upgrading** of **radiocommunication** and/or **telecommunication** facilities, cables and lines.
- d. Underground pumping stations and pipe networks for the conveyance or drainage of water or sewage, and necessary incidental equipment.
- e. Water storage tanks, reservoirs and wells, including pump stations.
- f. Pipes for the distribution (but not transmission) of natural or manufactured gas at a gauge pressure not exceeding 2000kPa including any necessary ancillary equipment such as household connections and compressor stations.
- g. The construction, operation, maintenance, **replacement** and upgrading of any new electricity lines up to and including 110kV and associated transformers and switchgear.
- h. Soil conservation, erosion protection, river control or flood protection works undertaken by, or on behalf of the Manawatū Wanganui **Regional Council**.
- i. Land drainage, stormwater control or irrigation works including pump stations.
- j. Railway crossing warning devices and barrier arms.
- k. Trig stations and survey marks.
- l. Navigational aids, lighthouses and beacons.
- m. Meteorological instruments and facilities.
- n. Decommissioning and removal of utilities.
- o. Electric vehicle charging stations.
- p. The trimming and removal of any vegetation that is required to maintain safe separation distances or the ongoing efficient operation of the **telecommunication** or electricity line.

Guidance Notes

1. The provisions of the National Environmental Standard for **Telecommunications**

Facilities (2016) apply and resource consent may be required under those Standards. In the event of a conflict between them the provisions of the National Environmental Standard override the District Plan.

2. Water takes, diversions, new tracks, drilling of bores, offal pits, farm dumps and **earthworks** are also regulated by the Manawatū-Wanganui **Regional Council** and a resource consent may be required under the rules of the One Plan.
3. The National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission Activities (2010) (NESETA) sets out a national framework of permission and consent requirements for activities on **National Grid** lines existing at 14 January 2010. Activities include the operation, maintenance and upgrading of existing lines but exclude the development of new lines (post 14 January 2010) and substations. The District Plan must not be in conflict with nor duplicate the provisions of the NESETA.
4. Vegetation and planting around lines (including the **National Grid**) shall comply with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.
5. The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001) contains restrictions on the location of structures and activities in relation to the lines, and must be complied with.
6. Early consultation with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is encouraged where a development may adversely affect an item listed on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rarangi Korero. Works near or within areas of historic heritage may also require an Archaeological Authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014). It is an offence to modify or destroy an archaeological **site** or demolish/destroy a whole **building** if the person knows or reasonably suspects it to be an archaeological **site**. An archaeological **site** is any place, including any **building** or structure (or part of), that:
 - was associated with human activity or the **site** of a wreck of a vessel that occurred before 1900; and
 - provides or may provide, through archaeological investigation, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.
7. The Electricity Act 1992 outlines the regulatory process for the electricity **industry** and the supply of electricity. This includes responsibilities between the electricity **industry** and landowners. The provisions of the Electricity Act 1992 are separate from the regulation of activities under the District Plan and Resource Management Act 1991.

3A.3.2 Standards for Permitted Activities

The **permitted activities** specified in Rule 3A.4.1 above must comply with the following standards and the relevant standards in those chapters and zones that have not been reviewed and made operative as part of the Sectional District Plan Review. The **permitted activities** specified in Rule 3A.4.1 do not need to comply with the **height** and setback rules in the zone chapter:

- a. New network utilities must not exceed a maximum **height** of
 - i) 9m within the Residential or Village Zone, or
 - ii) 25m within the Rural Zone, or
 - iii) 22m for all other zones.

Guidance Note: antennas (including any ancillary equipment) that do not extend 3m above the **height** of the **building** or **mast** are excluded from the 9m, 22m or 25m limit above. The **mast** heights provided in i), ii) and iii) above can be increased by 5m if the **mast** is used by more than one **telecommunications** provider. Lightning rods may exceed the maximum **height**. Refer also to Clause f relating to transmission line requirements.

- b. Any **mast** with a **height** of more than 9m must not be located within 20m of any **site** zoned Residential or Village.
- c. All **masts** must be set back 20m from a **road** reserve on any **site** zoned Rural or Flood Channel.
- d. No **mast**, **building** or structure may be located closer than 5m to any **site** boundary. This 5m yard does not apply to **buildings** with a floor area of less than 10m², or to overhead lines and cables.
- e. **Telecommunication** cabinets must not exceed 10m² in area in all zones, except in Flood Channel Zone where cabinets must not exceed 5m² in area.
- f. Electricity transmission and distribution must not, with the exception of **minor upgrading** activities, exceed a **height** of:
 - i) 12m in the Residential and Inner Business Zones, or
 - ii) 25m in all other zones.
- g. **Buildings** and structures within an electricity transmission corridor, including the **National Grid Yard** must:
 - i) Comply with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances 2001 (NZECP34:2001). (Note: compliance with the permitted activity standard of the Plan does not ensure compliance with NZECP34:2001); and
 - ii) With the exception of electricity lines associated with the electricity transmission or distribution, not exceed a maximum **height** of 2.5m and an area of 10m².

- h. No **antenna** will exceed the following dimensions:
 - i) 2.5 metres in diameter (dish **antenna**), or a face area of 1.5m² (other **antenna**) in the Residential Zone, or
 - ii) 5 metres in diameter (dish **antenna**), or a face area of 2.5 m² (other **antenna**) in all other zones.
- i. Where network utilities are located underground, any disturbance of the ground surface and any vegetation (apart from vegetation compromising the operational integrity of the **network utility**) must be reinstated or replaced upon completion of the works within the first available planting season.

Guidance Note: The National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (2011) also applies to **earthworks** and a resource consent may be required under those provisions.

- j. Works that are undertaken outside of an existing **road** corridor carriageway or railway corridor, or that are not in operation, maintenance, **replacement** or **minor upgrading** works, must not be located within the areas scheduled in Appendices_1A (Wetlands, Lakes, Rivers and their Margins), 1B (Significant Areas of **Indigenous Forest/Vegetation** (excluding Reserves), 1D (Trees with Heritage Value), 1E (Buildings and Objects with heritage Value), 1F (**Sites with Heritage Value**), Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 or Significant Amenity Features identified in NFL-APP2 of this Plan.
- k. Exterior lighting must be directed away from public places and adjoining **sites**, and must avoid any spill of light that may result in safety concerns for **road** users.
- l. Metal cladding or fences must be painted or otherwise treated to mitigate reflection.
- m. All road/rail level crossings must be kept clear of **buildings** and other obstructions which might block sight lines in accordance with Appendix 3B.5.
- n. All network utilities must meet the noise standards relevant to the zone they are located in.
- o. All activities that result in vibration must be managed in accordance with the NZ Transport Agency State Highway Construction and Maintenance Noise and Vibration guide (August 2013) to manage vibration beyond **site** boundaries.
- p. Electric vehicle charging stations must not exceed 1.5m² in area and 1.8m in **height** per charging station in all zones.

Guidance Notes:

1. Vegetation planted within an electricity transmission corridor, including the **National Grid Yard** and distribution lines should be selected and managed to ensure that it will not result in that vegetation breaching the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.
2. The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001) contains restrictions on the location of structures and activities in relation to the lines.
3. **Buildings**, structures and other activities near transmission gas lines should be managed according to the Operating Code Standard for Pipelines – Gas and Petroleum (NZS/AS 2885) and the Gas Distribution Networks (NZS 5258:2003).
4. Compliance with the permitted activity standards in Rule 3A.4.2 does not necessarily ensure compliance with the relevant code of practice identified above.
5. Sounds generated by construction, maintenance and demolition activities will be assessed, predicted, measured, managed and controlled by reference to NZS6803:1999 Acoustics – Construction Noise.
6. For any construction work associated with any infrastructure that is undertaken in the legal road, the person responsible for that work must be able to demonstrate compliance with the National Code of Practice for Utility Operators Access to Transport Corridors (2011).
7. **Radiocommunication** and/or **telecommunication** facilities that emit radiofrequency fields are required to comply with the radiofrequency regulations in the NESTF 2016.

3A.3.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities

The following activities are **Restricted Discretionary Activities** in respect to network utilities:

- a. Any permitted activity that does not comply with any of the relevant standards in Rule 3A.4.2). This rule does not apply to activities that do not meet standard (j) in Rule 3A.4.2 unless it meets the definition of **minor upgrading**, maintenance or **replacement**.

For these activities, the **Council** has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters, only to the extent that they are relevant to the standard that is not met:

- scale of built form and location on **site**, including **height**
- screening, storage and landscaping

These highlighted provisions have been appealed by PowerCo and Transpower. The appeals on hold pending the provisions being reviewed as part of a future Plan Change on Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (Plan Change 65). For now the highlighted provisions continue to have legal effect alongside the corresponding provisions of the Operative District Plan. The Appeals will be withdrawn once Plan Change 65 is made operative, unless otherwise agreed by PowerCo and Transpower. For further information see the Minute of the Court, dated [2 May 2018].

- traffic generation, **site** access and parking
- noise and vibration
- signage
- lighting
- **effects** on heritage
- known **effects** on the health and safety of nearby residents.

In determining whether to grant a resource consent and what conditions to impose, the **Council** will, in addition to the objectives and policies of the Network Utilities section and the relevant zone, assess any application in terms of the following assessment criteria:

- i) the proposed benefits of the **network utility** proposal to the wider community and beyond.
- ii) whether the activity will result in any adverse **effects** on **amenity values** of neighbouring properties or the character of the zone in which the activity is proposed.
- iii) whether the application remains consistent with the intention of the standard(s) it infringes.
- iv) the degree to which the non-compliance can be mitigated to ensure the **effects** are internalised to the **site**.
- v) the degree to which co-location has been considered and is practicable.
- vi) Whether the activity impacts on the scheduled heritage values in Appendices 1A (Wetlands, Lakes, Rivers and their Margins), 1B (Significant Areas of Indigenous Forest/Vegetation (excluding reserves), 1D (Trees with Heritage Value), 1E (Buildings and Objects with Heritage Value), 1F (Sites with Heritage Value), Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 or Significant Amenity Features identified in NFL-APP2 of this Plan and, if so, how such impacts are remedied or mitigated.
- vii) the degree to which the alternative locations, sites, or routes have been assessed and any operational, locational or technical constraints considered.
- viii) the degree to which the proposed facility may affect the performance of other utilities nearby.
- ix) the technical and operational needs for the efficient functioning of the **network utility**.

3A.3.4 Discretionary Activities

The following activities shall be a Discretionary Activity

- a. Any new network utility, including windfarms and new transmission and distribution electricity lines within any Outstanding Natural Feature as identified in Appendix NFL-APP1 or Significant Amenity Feature identified in Appendix NFL-APP2.
- b. Any **network utility** not otherwise specified as Permitted, Restricted Discretionary or Non-Complying Activity, or is not specifically provided for in this Plan.

3A.3.5 Non-Complying Activities

Any new **network utility**, including windfarms and new transmission and distribution electricity lines located within an Outstanding Natural Landscape identified in NFP-APP1 is a Non-Complying Activity.

These highlighted provisions have been appealed by PowerCo and Transpower. The appeals on hold pending the provisions being reviewed as part of a future Plan Change on Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (Plan Change 65). For now the highlighted provisions continue to have legal effect alongside the corresponding provisions of the Operative District Plan. The Appeals will be withdrawn once Plan Change 65 is made operative, unless otherwise agreed by PowerCo and Transpower. For further information see the Minute of the Court, dated [2 May 2018].

These highlighted provisions have been appealed by PowerCo and Transpower. The appeals on hold pending the provisions being reviewed as part of a future Plan Change on Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (Plan Change 65). For now the highlighted provisions continue to have legal effect alongside the corresponding provisions of the Operative District Plan. The Appeals will be withdrawn once Plan Change 65 is made operative, unless otherwise agreed by PowerCo and Transpower. For further information see the Minute of the Court, dated [2 May 2018].

3D EARTHWORKS

3D.1 Introduction

Earthworks are often carried out in conjunction with subdivision and development including through construction of a structure or **building**, the establishment of a **site** access and when completing landscaping. **Earthworks** are also undertaken in the rural **environment** in conjunction with rural production activities, and for biosecurity purposes to dispose of unwanted organisms.

Without appropriate management, **earthworks** have the potential to affect land stability and cause erosion. Rehabilitation and design have an important role in the mitigation of potential adverse **effects** such as land stability and visual amenity.

Earthworks can also affect archaeological **sites** and care should be taken to ensure those **sites** are protected and not destroyed.

3D.2 Resource Management Issues

The following resource management issues have been identified in relation to **earthworks**:

1. Potential adverse **effects** resulting from **earthworks** can detract from the **amenity values** of the District.
2. **Earthworks** can result in or increase the risk of land instability.
3. **Earthworks** can result in adverse **effects** on historic heritage values.
4. **Earthworks** can result in adverse **effects** on the values that cause a natural feature or landscape to be outstanding.
5. Increased risk of natural hazards when overland flow paths or stormwater drains/swales are changed through **earthworks**.
6. **Earthworks** can compromise the safe, efficient and effective functioning of established network utilities including regionally and nationally significant infrastructure.

3D.3 Objectives and Policies

Objective 1

To ensure **earthworks** do not result in adverse **effects** on the visual amenity, landscape, or historic heritage values of the area.

Policies

- 1.1 To mitigate any visual amenity **effects** arising from **earthworks**.
- 1.2 To restrict **earthworks** within the area of items scheduled in Appendix 1A (Wetlands, Lakes, Rivers and their Margins), 1B (Significant Areas of **Indigenous Forest/Vegetation** (excluding Reserves), 1D (Trees with Heritage Value), 1E (Buildings and Objects with Heritage Value) and 1F (**Sites** with Heritage Value).
- 1.3 To restrict **earthworks** in Outstanding Natural Features or Landscapes as scheduled in Appendix NFL-APP1, except where **earthworks** are necessary to manage risk to human health and safety.
- 1.4 To ensure the scale of **earthworks** are appropriate for the **site** they are located on to avoid visual amenity **effects** on or beyond the **site**.

Objective 2

To ensure that **earthworks** are designed and undertaken in a manner to minimise the risk of land instability and accelerated erosion.

Policies

- 2.1 To manage the scale of **earthworks** on **sites** susceptible to erosion and land instability.
- 2.2 To require rehabilitation measures be undertaken to avoid accelerated erosion following **earthworks**.
- 2.3 To ensure all adverse **effects** from **earthworks** including dust and sediment run-off are managed onsite so that particulate matter does not cause a nuisance or affect the safety or operation of other activities.
- 2.4 To ensure that **earthworks** do not affect the functioning of known overland flow paths.

Objective 3

To protect the operation of the **National Grid** and **infrastructure of regional and national importance** by avoiding **earthworks** that could undermine their integrity and functioning.

Policies

- 3.1 To control earthworks within the National Grid Yard to ensure the continued safe, effective and efficient access to and operation, maintenance and upgrading of the National Grid.
- 3.2 To control earthworks near infrastructure of regional and national importance to ensure their safe and efficient operation, maintenance and upgrading.

3D.4 Rules

Rules in this chapter apply District-wide and the chapter needs to be read in conjunction with the District Plan maps, relevant appendices and provisions of the applicable zone.

3D.4.1 Permitted Activities

The following are **Permitted Activities** in all zones, except the Rural and Flood Channel zones provided that they comply with the standards in Rule 3D.4.2 below.

- a. **Earthworks**, other than in an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.
- b. **Earthworks** for the purposes of burying material infected by unwanted organisms as declared by the Minister under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Guidance Notes:

1. Water takes, diversions, discharges and **earthworks** are also regulated by the Manawatū-Wanganui **Regional Council** and a resource consent maybe required under the rules of the One Plan.
2. **Earthworks** near or within areas of cultural and natural heritage values may also require an Archaeological Authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014). It is an offence to modify or destroy an archaeological **site** or destroy an archaeological **site** or demolish/destroy a whole **building** if the person knows or reasonably suspects it to be an archaeological **site**. An archaeological **site** is any place, including any **building** or structure (or part of), that:
 - was associated with human activity or the **site** of a wreck of a vessel that occurred before 1900; and
 - provides or may provide, through archaeological investigation, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.
3. The disposal of contaminated material, including unwanted organisms, may require resource consent from the Manawatū-Wanganui **Regional Council** under the rules of the One Plan.

3D.4.2 Standards for Permitted Activities

The **Permitted Activities** specified above must comply with the following standards:

- a. Any sediment run-off from **earthworks** must be contained within the subject **site**.
- b. All dust and sedimentation control measures must be installed prior to **earthworks** commencing, maintained during the construction works, and only removed once stabilisation occurs.
- c. **Earthworks** must not be undertaken closer than 20m of the banks of the Oroua River or Kiwitea Stream.
- d. **Earthworks** must not be undertaken closer than 10m of the banks of the Makino Stream.

- e. **Earthworks** must not be undertaken within any area identified in Appendix 1A (Wetlands, Lakes, Rivers and their Margins), 1B (Significant Areas of **Indigenous Forest/Vegetation** (excluding Reserves), 1D (Trees with Heritage Value) and 1F (Sites with Heritage Value).

- f. **Earthworks** undertaken in the **National Grid**

Around **National Grid** support poles and stay wires:

- i) depth shall be no greater than 300mm within 2.2m of the pole or stay wire; and
- ii) depth shall be no greater than 750mm between 2.2m and 5m of the pole or stay wire.

Around **National Grid** support towers (including any tubular steel tower that replaces a steel lattice tower):

- iii) depth shall be no greater than 300mm within 6m of the outer edge of the visible foundation of the tower; and
- iv) depth shall be no greater than 3m between 6m and 12m of the outer edge of the visible foundation of the tower; and
- v) shall not compromise the stability of a **National Grid** support structure, and
- vi) shall not result in a reduction in the ground to conductor clearance distances below what is required by Table 4 of NZECP34:2001.

Provided that the following earthwork activities are exempt from the provisions (i)-(vi) above:

- vii) by a **network utility** operator within a transport corridor as part of a transmission activity or for utility infrastructure, or
- viii) as part of agricultural or domestic cultivation, or
- ix) repair, sealing or resealing of a road, footpath, driveway or farm track
- x) any vertical holes not exceeding 500mm in diameter provided they are:
 - a) more than 1.5m from the outer edge of a pole support structure or stay wire; or
 - b) a post hole for a farm fence or horticulture structure and more than 6m from the visible edge of a tower support structure foundation.

Guidance Note: The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP34:2001) contains restrictions on the location of structures and activities in relation to all electricity lines. Compliance with the Code of Practice is mandatory. Compliance with the permitted activity standards of the Plan does not ensure compliance with the Code of Practice.

- g. No **earthworks, buildings** or structures can be undertaken or erected within 20m

of a natural gas transmission pipeline.

- h. **Earthworks** must comply with the standards specified in Table 3D.1 Earthwork Volumes.
- i. **Earthworks** must not block any stormwater or overland flow paths.

Table 3D.1 Earthwork Volumes

Zone	Minimum setback from site boundary		Maximum area per site exposed at any one time	Maximum permitted volume per site in any 12 month period	Maximum change to existing ground level
	1.5m	3m	500m ²	500m ³	1.5m
Residential, Village & Inner Business Zones	?		?		?
Outer Business & Industrial Zones		?		?	?
Manfeild Park & Special Development Zones		?		?	?
Recreation Zone	?			?	?

Guidance Notes:

1. The restrictions above do not apply to land based quarrying activities which are managed in the Rural Zone of this Plan.
2. **Earthworks** are also regulated by the Manawatū-Wanganui **Regional Council** and a resource consent may be required under the rules of the One Plan, or any subsequent Regional Plan. The One Plan requires Erosion and Sediment Control measures to comply with the Greater Wellington **Regional Council**'s Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines dated September 2002.
3. The National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (2011) also applies to **earthworks** and a resource consent may be required under those provisions.

4. Where **earthworks** are to be undertaken within 20m of any electricity line or high pressure gas transmission line, the owners of the electrical or gas network should be advised of the intention to carry out the works not less than 5 working days prior to their commencement.
5. **Earthworks** that may or will modify or destroy an archaeological **site** require an Archaeological Authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014). It is an offence to modify or destroy an archaeological **site** or demolish/destroy a whole **building** if the person knows or reasonably suspects it to be an archaeological **site**. An archaeological **site** is any place, including any **buildings** or structure (or part of), that:
 - was associated with human activity or the **site** of a wreck of a vessel that occurred before 1900; and
 - provides or may provide, through archaeological investigation, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

3D.4.3 Restricted Discretionary Activities

The following activities are **Restricted Discretionary Activities**:

- a. Any **earthworks** undertaken in the **National Grid Yard** that do not comply with the standards for **permitted activities** under Rule 3D.4.2 f. i) – iv) above.

For this activity, the **Council** has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters, only to the extent that they are relevant to the standard that is not met:

- Any effects on the operation of the **National Grid**
- Volume, area and location of the works, including **temporary activities** such as stockpiles
- Hours of operation and time of year the proposed works will occur
- **Site** remediation
- The use of mobile machinery within the **National Grid Yard**
- Demonstrated compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP34:2001).

3D.4.4 Discretionary Activities

The following activities are a Discretionary Activity:

- a. Any **earthworks** that do not meet the Permitted Activity standards, or are not specifically provided for in this Plan.
- b. Any earthworks within an Outstanding Natural Feature identified in NFL-APP1 or Significant Amenity Feature identified in NFL-APP2.

Guidance Note:

The National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (2011) also applies to **earthworks** and a consent may be required under those provisions.

3D.4.5 Non-Complying Activities

Any **earthworks** within an Outstanding Natural Landscape identified in NFL-APP1, except within an existing **road** corridor, or in the **National Grid Yard** that do not comply with 3D.4.2 f. v) or vi) is a Non-Complying Activity.
