

## 14E 1 Issue, Objective and Policies

### 14E 1.1 Protection of Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources

#### Issue

A number of significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources have been identified in the City. Such resources include flora and fauna, habitats, wetlands, lakes, the coastal environment, geological features, waahi tapu sites, and archaeological sites. Building, structures, site development and activities can modify, damage or destroy these resources. All buildings, structures, site development and activities can have adverse effects on the natural character, ecosystems and amenity values of all areas including the coastal environment. Therefore, significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources need to be recognised and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

These significant resources are listed in Appendix Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources 1. They are shown on Map Appendices 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D - Significant Natural, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources. The Coastal Environment, as identified in Significant Natural Resources, is mapped on Map Appendices 2.3A, 2.3B and 2.3C.

#### Objective

To identify and protect significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources in the City from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

#### Policies

- (a) That a schedule of significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources within the City be compiled.
- (b) That it be recognised that new significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources may be discovered, and added to the schedule of significant resources.
- (c) That any activity or site development shall not modify, damage or destroy a significant natural, cultural or archaeological resource.
- (d) That any activity or site development shall not compromise the natural character or visual amenity values of a significant natural, cultural or archaeological resource.
- (e) All buildings, structures and activities shall preserve the natural character, visual amenity values and landscape values of the significant natural, cultural or archaeological resources including the identified coastal environment.
- (f) The scale, height, location and design of all buildings and structures shall protect the amenity values, especially landscape values, of the identified coastal environment.
- (g) That any activity or site development will take into account new findings of significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources.
- (h) That the cultural significance of these natural resources be recognised and protected.
- (i) That any activity or site development shall not modify, damage or destroy the intrinsic values of the ecosystems of a significant natural, cultural or archaeological resource.

## Explanation and Reasons

The City's significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources have been recognised and scheduled in a list. While it is acknowledged that the schedule is not complete, newly discovered resources may be added to the schedule as they are identified. Any proposed activity or site development shall take account of new findings of significance.

The Act, New Zealand Coastal Policy Statements and the Regional Policy Statement requires that significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources be protected and where appropriate preserved from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

The Act highlights the need to recognise and provide for sites and features of significance to Maori. Such areas have been identified, and development and activities around these features will be restricted.

The Act highlights the need to recognise and provide for outstanding landscapes. It is appropriate to also recognise locations with significant landscape values. Such areas are included within the significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources schedule, and development and activities within these areas will be restricted.

In addition to the provisions of Chapter 14E, the requirements of sections 6 and 7 of the Act are also supported by provisions in the following Chapters of the Plan: Residential; Recreation; Rural Residential; Rural; and Subdivision. These provisions include provision for amenity values; management of the clearance of vegetation; preserving the natural appearance of skylines; managing the siting of buildings; managing the visual appearance of earthworks; preserving the visual backdrop to the City; and recognising and providing for the coastal environment.

Items can only be added to the schedule of Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources by way of the statutory procedures determined by the Act. Factors such as the following will be taken into account when considering resources for future inclusion in the schedule of significant natural resources:

- (a) Representativeness
  - Contains an ecology that is unrepresented or unique in the ecological district.
- (b) Rarity
  - Contains threatened ecosystems.
  - Contains threatened species.
  - Contains species that are endemic to the ecological district.
- (c) Diversity
  - Diversity of ecosystems/species/vegetation.
- (d) Distinctiveness
  - Contains large/dense population of viable species.
  - Largely in its natural state or restorable.
  - Uninterrupted ecological sequence.
  - Contains significant landforms.
- (e) Continuity and Linkage within Landscape
  - Provides, or has potential to provide, corridor/buffer zone to an existing area.
- (f) Cultural Values
  - Traditionally important for Maori.
  - Recreational values.
  - Significant landscape value.

- Protection of soil values.
- Water catchment protection.
- Recreation or tourism importance.
- Aesthetic coherence.
- (g) Ecological Restoration
  - Ability to be restored.
  - Difficulty of restoration.
  - Cost/time.
- (h) Landscape Integrity
  - Significance to the original character of the landscape.
  - Isolated feature, does it stand out or blend in.
  - Does it have a role in landscape protection.
- (i) Sustainability
  - Size and shape of the area.
  - Activities occurring on the boundaries which may affect its sustainability.
  - Adjoins another protected area.
  - Links.
  - Easily managed.

Items listed in the schedules of Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources may be removed upon application to the Council for a plan change. Council will consider the following matters in any assessment for a plan change:

- The area/item no longer consistent with the criteria for protection/preservation above.
- The item has deteriorated or has been damaged to the point where it is of danger to the community or individuals.

## 14E 2 Rules

### 14E 2.1 Permitted Activities

- (a) In all activity areas, significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources (these are listed in Appendix Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources 1 and shown on the Map Appendices).
- (b) In all activity areas, activities and works associated with the protection, preservation, enhancement and conservation of significant natural, cultural and archaeological resources.
- (c) On Pt 1A2 Parangarahu (Baring Head):
  - (i) a single building for the purpose of accommodating a single or two household unit;
  - (ii) farm accessory buildings; and
  - (iii) any earthworks necessary for the creation of the building platforms for (i) and (ii) above.