

Appendix A: Recommended amendments and section 32AA assessment – Wetlands and biodiversity

This table sets out recommended amendments to the Wetlands and biodiversity provisions. Recommended additions to the notified text are in underline and recommended deletions are strike through text. The section 32AA assessment follows alongside for each of the provisions.

Provisions shown in grey are those that I have not recommended any amendments to.

Red text amendments = recommendations from the officer's s42A report

Blue text amendments = updated recommendations from the officer's Right of Reply

Note that requests for **new** provisions are not included in these tables.

Amendment no./ Submission no.	Chapter	Provision	Text of provision with any recommended amendments	Evaluation of amendment (section 32AA assessment)
S75/006 S135/005	2 - Interpretation	Biodiversity Offset	A measurable positive <u>environmental</u> outcome resulting from an <u>actions</u> designed to compensate <u>redress for</u> the residual adverse effects on biodiversity arising from an <u>activities</u> after <u>appropriate</u> avoidance, <u>minimisation, and</u> remediation and mitigation measures have been taken applied . <u>The goal of a B</u> biodiversity offsets differ from mitigation in so far as offsets require the demonstration of is to achieve no net loss, <u>and preferably a net gain</u> , of <u>indigenous</u> biodiversity <u>values and preferably a net gain</u> . The principles to be applied when proposing and considering biodiversity offsets are provided in Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting).	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness by providing greater clarity for plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amendment more clearly articulates what a biodiversity offset is for plan users, particularly in contrast to mitigation.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the provision ambiguous and unclear for Plan users.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option:</p>

				I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while emphasising efficiency and effectiveness.
	2 - Interpretation	Low energy receiving environment	Aquatic environments with little flushing action from tides, river flows, or wave action. For example, protected harbours and bays.	N/A
S110/003	2 - Interpretation	Biodiversity mitigation	<p><u>The avoidance, lessening or repair of the adverse effects of an activity, undertaken in direct response to, and at the same location as, that activity. The mitigation of adverse effects on biodiversity involves three distinct steps, the order of which is specific and critical:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>avoid adverse effects on biodiversity</u> 2. <u>minimise unavoidable adverse effects</u> 3. <u>remedy those adverse effects that cannot be minimised.</u> <p><u>Note -</u></p> <p><u>The principles to be applied when proposing and considering mitigation are set out in Schedule G1 (biodiversity mitigation).</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Plan by making it clearer to plan users what mitigation involves and how it ought to be carried out.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment not only provides greater clarity to plan users, but also could result in better environmental outcomes from mitigation activities as a result of the clearer process being articulated in this new definition.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the possibility that mitigation activities of poor quality will be carried out that will not adequately address the adverse effects of an activity.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most efficient and effective means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while emphasising efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
	2 - Interpretation	Natural Lake	A lake which is formed by natural geomorphic processes, whether modified by human activity or not.	N/A
S308/009 S398/006	2 - Interpretation	Natural wetland	Is a permanently or intermittently wet area, shallow water and land water margin that supports a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment would help to make the Plan's wetlands provisions more efficient and effective by enhancing the clarity of</p>

			<p>to wet conditions, including in the beds of lakes and rivers, the coastal marine area (e.g. saltmarsh), and groundwater-fed wetlands (e.g. springs). Natural wetlands do not include:</p> <p>a. damp gully heads, or wetted pasture, or pasture with patches of rushes, or</p> <p>(b) areas of wetland habitat <u>that have established</u> in or around bodies of water specifically designed, installed and maintained for any of the following purposes:</p> <p>(i) water storage ponds for</p> <p>a) public water supply, or</p> <p>b) hydroelectric power generation, or</p> <p>c) firefighting or</p> <p>d) irrigation, or</p> <p>e) stock watering or</p> <p>(ii) water treatment ponds for</p> <p>a) wastewater, or</p> <p>b) stormwater, or</p> <p>c) nutrient attenuation, or</p> <p>d) sediment control, or</p> <p>e) animal effluent, or</p> <p>(iii) beautification, landscaping, amenity, or</p> <p>(iv) drainage.</p> <p>See also significant natural wetland and outstanding natural wetland 'Wetland' has the same meaning as in the RMA. Note that, because of the rarity of wetlands in the</p>	<p>the definition.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This proposed amendment would make the Plan clearer for plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would leave the definition less clear than it could be for users. I consider this risk to be low.</p> <p>Not acting on the recommendation in this Right of Reply could have adverse environmental impacts resulting from assumptions that natural wetlands are not considered significant natural wetlands.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the issues raised by submitters.</p>
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			Wellington Region, all natural wetlands will meet the representativeness and rarity criteria listed in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement 2013 and therefore meet the definition of significant natural wetland.	
	2 - Interpretation	Residual adverse effects	The negative effects on the environment remaining from an activity after avoidance, remediation, and mitigation measures have been taken.	N/A
	2 - Interpretation	Restoration	The rehabilitation of sites, habitats or ecosystems to support indigenous flora and fauna, ecosystem functions and natural processes that would naturally occur in the ecosystem and locality.	N/A
S352/039	2 - Interpretation	Outstanding natural wetland	Outstanding natural wetlands are natural wetlands that are highly representative and either have high rarity values or are highly diverse. <u>(Note – Schedule A3 lists natural wetlands that have been identified as having outstanding indigenous biodiversity values.) are identified in Schedule A3.(outstanding wetlands).</u>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This proposed amendment is more efficient and effective than just referring to a schedule in that it more clearly articulates what constitutes “outstanding”. It also provides clearer effect to the regional policy statement</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The benefit lies in the greater clarity to Plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the definition less clear than it could be and also not fully aligned with the regional policy statement.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the issues raised by submitters while emphasising efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S75/012 S146/033 S163/032	2 - Interpretation	Significant natural wetland	A natural wetland that meets one or more of criteria (a) to (d) listed in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement 2013 being: representativeness;	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment does not change the intent of the proposed Plan but should enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the</p>

			<p>rarity; diversity; ecological context. Identified significant natural wetlands greater than 0.1ha from which livestock should be excluded under Rule R98 are listed in Schedule F3 (significant wetlands).</p> <p><u>(Note – Schedule F3 lists identified significant natural wetlands that are greater than 0.1 ha¹ for the purpose of managing livestock exclusion under Rule R97).</u></p>	<p>Plan by making it clearer to users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amendment provides greater clarity to plan users and helps to articulate that natural wetlands less than 0.1ha can also be considered significant.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting could leave this provision ambiguous for Plan users and potentially result in significant wetlands less than 0.1 ha being overlooked.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while emphasising efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S143/016	2 - Interpretation	Wetland Restoration management plan	<p>A plan required for managing the restoration of sites, habitats, or ecosystems to support indigenous flora and fauna, ecosystems and natural processes a wetland under Rule R106, where the restoration involves activities otherwise managed by Rules R98, R107, R108, R109, and R110 and R111. Wetland Restoration management plans must be prepared in accordance with Schedule F3a (wetland restoration management plans).</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment makes the Plan more efficient and effective in that it provides greater clarity for plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The benefit this amendment provides is in the greater clarity for plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting:</p>

¹ Consequential change based on the Recommendations made in paragraph 147 in the “Section 42A Report: Land use in riparian margins and stock access to surface water bodies”

				<p>Not acting could leave the provision unclear and ambiguous for plan users.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most efficient and effective means of addressing the issues raised by the submitters.</p>
Issue 1	2 - Interpretation	Wairarapa Moana	Includes the beds of Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke and the publicly owned reserves adjacent to the lakes.	N/A
S33/002 S75/019 S112/013 S117/015 S279/029 S353/019 S366/042 S367/042	3 - Objectives	Objective O18	The ecological, recreational, mana whenua , and amenity values of estuaries, and <u>harbours are protected, including</u> their sensitivity as low energy receiving environments <u>are-is</u> recognised, and their health and function is restored <u>over time to a healthy functioning state as defined by Table 3.8 Estuaries and harbours.</u>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment would improve the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness by aligning it more closely with the regional policy statement.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment aligns the objective more closely with the regional policy statement.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting poses no risks.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S110/004 S112/020 S176/002	3 - Objectives	Objective O28 ²	The extent of natural wetlands is maintained or increased and their condition is restored <u>to a healthy functioning state as defined by Tables 3.7</u>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment would enhance the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness in that it makes requirements for restored condition</p>

² This objective has been recommended for amalgamation into O25 in the S42 Report: Water Quality

<p>S279/039 S308/029 S353/035 S398/006</p>			<p><u>and 3.8.</u></p>	<p>clearer.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users in that it helps articulate what a restored state is.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting risks leaving the provision less clear for Plan users than it could be.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing concerns raised by submitters while emphasising efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
<p>S279/040</p>	<p>3 - Objectives</p>	<p>Objective O29</p>	<p>Use and development provides for the <u>The passage of fish and koura is maintained</u>, and the passage of indigenous fish and koura is restored.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment provides a clearer statement of the outcome sought for the passage of fish and koura by the proposed Plan.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users in that it better articulates the outcome sought by the proposed Plan.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting risks leaving the provision less clear for Plan users than it could be.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing concerns raised by submitters while emphasising</p>

				efficiency and effectiveness
S316/037	3 - Objectives	Objective O30 ³	The habitat of <u>trout identified in Schedule I (trout habitat) important trout fishery rivers and spawning waters</u> is maintained <u>and or</u> improved.	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment would make the Plan more efficient and effective in that it more clearly articulates the intention of the objective.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment would make the objective clearer in that the information in the schedules is more a means to an end than the end.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting poses only the low risk of lower clarity than could be possible.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing concerns raised by submitters while emphasising efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S279/042 S308/031	3 – Objectives	Objective O31 ⁴	Outstanding water bodies and their significant values are protected <u>and restored. Where the significant values relate to biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, restoration is to a healthy functioning state as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.</u>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment would help to make the Plan more efficient and effective by aligning this objective with other related provisions, creating a more uniform approach.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): Potential new costs involved in restoration of outstanding water bodies and their significant values.</p>

³ This objective has been recommended for amalgamation into O25 in the S42 Report: Water Quality

⁴ This objective has been recommended for amalgamation into O25 in the S42 Report: Water Quality

				<p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment not only aligns with the Plan's objectives more closely, it also provides potential benefits (if given effect) in the form of restored wetlands.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would leave the Plan with no requirement to restore outstanding water bodies, which would be in contrast to the Plan's intent and approach to other water bodies.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S279/046	3 - Objectives	Objective 35	Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected and restored <u>to a healthy functioning state as defined by Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.</u>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment makes the Plan more efficient by setting clear and consistent criteria as to what a healthy functioning state is, and sets clearer guidelines.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There may be economic costs involved in improving ecosystems to the states identified in the tables.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a potential environmental benefit to making it clear what makes a healthy functioning state for an ecosystem. This additional clarity also presents a benefit to Plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves ambiguity as to what a healthy functioning state is.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a</p>

<p>S75/055 S279/087 S310/028 S353/063</p>	<p>4 - Policies</p>	<p>Policy P22</p>	<p>Policy P22-39A: Ecosystem values of estuaries Managing adverse effects on Indigenous biodiversity values aquatic ecosystems, habitats and species within the coastal marine area <small>CONFIDENTIAL</small> <u>To manage protect the indigenous biodiversity values of aquatic ecosystems, habitats and species, use and development within the coastal marine area shall:</u></p> <p>a) <u>Avoid adverse effects on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>indigenous taxa listed as threatened or at risk in the NZ Threat classification system lists or as threatened by the IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;</u> ii. <u>indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types in the coastal environment that are threatened or are naturally rare;</u> iii. <u>habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are naturally rare;</u> iv. <u>areas in the coastal environment containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types;</u> v. <u>areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological</u> 	<p>focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Effectiveness and efficiency: The recommended amendments to former Policy P22 are required to give effect to Policy 11(a) of the NZCPS. As discussed in the s42A report, in my opinion, there is a gap in the proposed Plan. The amendments will also provide further clarity to plan users as to how indigenous biodiversity will be managed. In my view, these recommended amendments will provide a more effective and efficient approach to achieving the objectives and align with the NZCPS than was set out in the notified version.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There will potentially be additional costs for some types of use and development associated with avoiding adverse effects on those ecosystems and habitats that meet the criteria of Policy P39A(a).</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The benefits to the amended policy are that the proposed Plan will give effect to the NZCPS and will provide protection for those significant ecosystems and habitats identified via the NZCPS. This will result in environmental benefits to the way indigenous biodiversity values are managed across the region.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: The risk of not acting is greater than the risk of acting as, in my opinion, there is a gap in the proposed Plan in respect of Policy 11 of the NZCPS. This gap puts the Council at risk in regards to its responsibilities to give effect to the NZCPS and puts those significant ecosystems and habitats at risk due to a lack of protection, particularly if they are not currently identified in Schedules F4 or F5.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option:</p>
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			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>diversity under other legislation.</u></p> <p>b) <u>Avoid significant adverse effects, and avoid, minimise, and/or remedy other adverse effects of activities</u> on the ecosystem values of estuaries, including their importance as habitat for indigenous plants, birds and fish including diadromous species, and as nursery for important fish stocks, shall be avoided.</p>	<p>I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions, while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
<p>S33/011 S163/051 S279/088 S308/053 S353/064</p>	<p>4 – Policies</p>	<p>Policy P23</p>	<p>Policy P23<u>P38A</u>: Restoring <u>estuaries, harbours and other low energy environments, in particular</u> Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Lake Wairarapa <u>Moana</u> <u>Activities that restore the health and function of estuaries and harbours and other low energy receiving environments to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7 and 3.8 shall be encouraged and supported. In particular, the ecological health and significant values of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Lake Wairarapa Moana will be restored overtime</u> by:</p> <p>(a) managing activities, <u>erosion-prone land, and riparian margins</u> to reduce sedimentation rates and pollutant inputs, and</p> <p>(b) managing erosion-prone land and riparian margins in their catchments, and</p> <p>(c) undertaking planting and pest management programmes in harbour and lake habitats</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: The recommended amendment to proposed Policy P23 will provide further clarity to plan users as to how significant values of each of the waterbodies will be restored. The amended policy provides a link to Objective O25 setting an outcome for restoration. In my view, these recommended amendments will provide a more efficient and effective approach than was set out in the proposed Plan as notified.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs identified.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amendments now provide a clearer link back to the objectives. In my view this will ensure there are environmental benefits.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: If the appropriate level of clarity is not set out in the policy approach, there is a risk that the values of these waterbodies are not restored.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of</p>

			and ecosystems.	addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.
S33/013 S121/054 S127/020 S279/092 S308/055 S353/070 S398/019	4 – Policies	Policy P31	<p>Policy P31: Biodiversity, Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai COASTAL</p> <p>Biodiversity, Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai shall be maintained or restored by managing the effects of use and development on physical, chemical and biological processes to:</p> <p><u>Hydrology</u></p> <p>(a) minimise adverse effects on <u>maintain or restore</u> natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes, and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and natural wetlands, and</p> <p><u>Water quality</u></p> <p>(b) <u>maintain or improve water quality to meet the objectives in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of Objective O25, and</u></p> <p><u>Aquatic habitat diversity and quality</u></p> <p>(bc) minimise adverse effects on <u>maintain or restore</u> aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and the natural form of rivers, lakes, natural wetlands and <u>the coastal habitats marine area</u>, and</p> <p><u>(d) restore the connections between fragmented</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: The recommended amendment to Policy P31 will provide clarity as to how biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai values will be maintained or improved. This is primarily through the replacement of the word ‘minimise’ with words that require a certain result, thereby providing a clear direction for plan users. In my view, these recommended amendments will provide a more effective and efficient approach than was set out in the notified version.</p> <p>In my view, there are gains in the effectiveness and efficiency of the proposed Plan through combining Policies P31, P36 and P105 given that the policy direction within these policies is similar, both in respect of topic matter and direction. The combination removes potential confusion and inconsistent interpretations across these policies.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amendments now provide a clearer link back to the objectives. In my view this will ensure there are environmental benefits.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: If the appropriate level of clarity is not set out in the policy approach of the decisions version of the plan, there is a risk that values for biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai could be adversely impacted.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of</p>

			<p><u>aquatic habitats, and</u></p> <p><u>Critical habitat for indigenous aquatic species and indigenous birds</u></p> <p>(ede) <u>minimise adverse effects on maintain or restore</u> habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of indigenous aquatic species <u>and the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, natural wetlands and the beds of lakes and rivers and their margins that are used for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration,</u> and</p> <p><u>Critical life cycle periods</u></p> <p>(def) <u>avoid, minimise, or remedy minimise adverse effects on aquatic species, including fish and koura, and indigenous bird species including the disturbance of the bed or banks of a river or lake,</u> at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of <u>those aquatic species, including fish and koura, and indigenous bird species that are dependent on aquatic habitat,</u> including timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, <u>to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more severe, and</u></p> <p><u>Fish passage</u></p> <p>(ef) <u>avoid creating barriers to the migration or movement of indigenous aquatic species and trout, except where this is required for</u></p>	<p>addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
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			<p>the protection of indigenous fish and koura populations, and</p> <p>(g) restore the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats, including the passage of indigenous fish and koura, where this is appropriate for the management and protection of indigenous aquatic species, and</p> <p><i>Riparian habitats</i></p> <p>(f)g) minimise adverse effects on <u>maintain or restore</u> riparian habitats and restore them where practicable, and</p> <p><i>Pests</i></p> <p>(g)h) avoid the introduction, and restrict the spread, of aquatic pest plants and animals.</p>	
S69/003 S75/065 S82/026	4 – Policies	Policy P32	<p>Policy P32: Adverse effects on <u>biodiversity</u>, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai</p> <p>Significant aAdverse effects on <u>biodiversity</u>, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai shall be managed by:</p> <p>(a) avoiding significant adverse effects, and</p> <p>(b) where significant <u>significant</u> adverse effects cannot be avoided, remedying <u>minimising</u> them, and</p> <p>(c) where significant <u>significant</u> adverse effects cannot be remedied, mitigating <u>them</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: The proposed amendments clarify that Policy P32 seeks to manage any effects on biodiversity management.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There are no associated costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): Amending Policy P32 will provide clarity for plan users and therefore deliver associated environmental benefits.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: If clarity is not provided in the decisions version of the plan, that Policy P32 provides for biodiversity, there is a risk that plan</p>

			<p><u>completely avoided and/or minimised they are remedied on-site, and</u></p> <p>(d) where <u>significant residual adverse effects</u> remain, it is appropriate to consider the use of biodiversity offsets.</p> <p>Proposals for <u>mitigation</u> and biodiversity offsetting will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule <u>G1 (biodiversity mitigation) and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting)</u>.</p>	<p>users may not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assess the effects on biodiversity; and - provide options to mitigate any potential effects in their assessment of environmental effects. <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S75/066	4 - Policies	Policy P33	<p><u>Policy P33 P41A: Protecting Effects on the spawning and migration of indigenous fish species habitat</u></p> <p><u>Avoid</u> The more than minor adverse effects of activities on the indigenous fish species known to be present in any water body identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes) as habitat for indigenous fish species, and or Schedule F1b (inanga spawning habitats), particularly at the relevant during known spawning and migration times identified in Schedule F1a (fish spawning/migration) for these species, shall be avoided. These activities <u>may</u> include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) discharges of contaminants, including sediment, and b) disturbance of the bed or banks that would <u>significantly</u> affect spawning habitat at peak times of the year, and c) damming, diversion or taking of water which leads to <u>significant</u> loss of flow or which 	<p>Effectiveness/efficiency The proposed amendments provide a more effective and efficient approach, as they ensure matters managed within Policy P31 are not repeated in Policy P33. This provides increased clarity for plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There are no associated costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amendments provide for environmental benefits.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: If the recommended amendments are not made to the proposed approach, then the decisions version of the plan will contain multiple policies which seek to manage the same matters.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

			makes the river impassable to migrating indigenous fish.	
	4 – Policies	Policy P34	<p>Policy P34: Fish passage <u>The construction or creation of new barriers to the passage of indigenous aquatic species, including fish and koura species shall be avoided, except where this is required for the protection of indigenous fish and koura populations.</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: The proposed amendment recognises a potential circumstance where barriers may be required for the proposed of indigenous fish and koura populations. In my opinion the amended policy will be more effective and efficient at achieving the objectives of the proposed Plan by increasing the protection afforded to indigenous fish and koura populations.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No additional costs associated with these amendments.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amended policy will increase the protection afforded to indigenous fish and koura populations particularly in respect of restoration efforts.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: There is no risk to acting. The risk of not acting is that in some cases indigenous fish and koura populations may not receive the desired level of protection.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
	4 – Policies	Policy P35	<p>Policy P35: Restoring fish passage <u>The passage of indigenous fish and koura shall be restored where this is appropriate for the management and protection of indigenous fish and koura populations.</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: The proposed amendment will help provide greater passage for fish across the region and thus reduce population fragmentation and interference with fish behaviour. In my opinion the amended policy will be more effective and efficient at achieving the objectives of the proposed Plan by increasing the protection afforded to indigenous fish and koura populations.</p>

				<p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a potential financial cost associated with restoring fish passage.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amended policy will increase the protection afforded to indigenous fish and koura populations through providing for their passage.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: There is no risk to acting. The risk of not acting is that in some cases indigenous fish and koura populations may not receive the benefits of improved or restored fish passage.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S352/144 S353/075	4 – Policies	Policy P36	<p>Policy P36: Effects on indigenous bird habitat</p> <p>The adverse effects of use and development on the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers and their margins for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration shall be minimised.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: Proposed Policy P36 is now managed within Policy P31. In my view it is a more efficient and effective approach to manage the effects of indigenous bird habitat within one general policy for biodiversity rather than separating it out.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No additional costs associated with these amendments.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): Providing for indigenous bird habitat within Policy P31 will now ensure that all of the impacts for biodiversity are considered under the same policy direction. In my view, this integrated approach will provide additional environmental and cultural benefits than was initially set out in the proposed plan.</p>

				<p>Risk of acting or not acting: The risk of not providing an integrated approach is that plan users may overlook the policy for indigenous bird habitat in their assessment. Providing the policy direction within one provision will reduce the risk of this happening.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S75/070 S352/145	4 – Policies	Policy P37	<p>Policy P37: Values of wetlands</p> <p>Activities in and adjacent to natural wetlands shall be managed to maintain <u>and, where appropriate, restore their condition and</u> their values including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) as habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, and (b) for their significance to mana whenua, and (c) for their role in the hydrological cycle including flood protection, and (d) for nutrient attenuation and <u>sediment trapping</u>, and (e) as a fisheries resource, and (f) for recreation, <u>and</u> <u>(g) for education and scientific research.</u> <p><u>Note</u></p> <p><u>The adverse effects of activities on the significant</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: Providing for the restoration of the values of natural wetlands within the decisions version of Policy P37 will ensure the values and conditions are improved where they are degraded. This also provides a better link to the requirements of the NPS-FM, which requires landowners to “maintain and improve” water quality of wetlands. For these reasons, in my view, the proposed amendments to Policy P37 provide a more efficient and effective approach than is set out in the proposed plan.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No additional costs associated with these amendments.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): Providing for the restoration of the values and condition of natural wetlands will provide for improved environmental benefits than was initially provided for.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: The risk of acting is that the policy approach for wetlands will not be consistent with the requirements to “maintain and improve” as set out within the NPS-FM.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of</p>

			indigenous biodiversity values of natural wetlands are managed under Policies P40 to P42.	addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.
S285/087 S294/087 S295/087 S297/087 S299/087 S346/087 S348/129 S349/087 S351/087 S370/087	4 – Policies	Policy P38	<p>Policy P38: Restoration of wetlands</p> <p>The restoration of natural wetlands and the construction of artificial wetlands to meet the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives set out in Tables 3.7 and 3.8, to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, and to carry out the physical and ecological functions of natural wetlands, shall be encouraged and supported.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency:</p> <p>The recommended amendments set out within Policy P38 will ensure there is clarity as to which objectives the policy approach seeks to implement. These amendments will provide a clearer line of logic between the policy approach and the objectives. In my view this will deliver a more efficient and effective approach than was set out in the proposed plan.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural):</p> <p>The additional costs identified.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural):</p> <p>The additional clarity provided in Policy P38 will provide environmental and cultural benefits.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting:</p> <p>If the recommended amendments are not made to Policy P38, there will be a lack of clarity as to the water quality, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives in which Policy P38 seeks to implement.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option:</p> <p>I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
	4 – Policies	Policy P39:	<p>Policy P39: Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies</p> <p>The adverse effects of use and development on outstanding water bodies and their significant values identified in Schedule A (outstanding water</p>	N/A

			bodies) shall be avoided.	
S279/100	4 – Policies	Policy P40	<p>Policy P40: Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values</p> <p>Protect and restore the following ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), and (b) the habitats for indigenous birds identified in Schedule F2 (bird habitats), and (c) significant natural wetlands, including the significant natural wetlands identified in Schedule F3 (identified significant natural wetlands), and (d) the ecosystems and habitat-types with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats). <p><u>Note - All natural wetlands in the Wellington Region are considered to be significant natural wetlands as they meet at least two of the criteria listed in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement 2013 for identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values; being representativeness and rarity.</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This recommended amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness by clarifying the connection between natural wetlands and significant natural wetlands, stating it explicitly.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The primary benefit of this amendment is the greater clarity provided by Plan users due to reduced ambiguity. I also consider there is a potential environmental benefit that could result from making it clear in the Plan that all natural wetlands are also considered significant natural wetlands.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting may result in ambiguity regarding the significance of natural wetlands, which could have adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

<p>S75/041 S110/009 S353/080</p>	<p>4 – Policies</p>	<p>Policy P41</p>	<p>Policy P41: Managing adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values</p> <p>In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Policy P40, in the first instance activities <u>that risk causing adverse effects on the values of a significant site</u>, other than activities carried out in accordance with a wetland restoration management plan, shall avoid these ecosystems and habitats.</p> <p>If the ecosystem or habitat cannot be avoided, <u>(except for those ecosystems and habitats identified in P40(b), (c) and (d) that are identified and which are managed by Policy P39A(a))</u>, the adverse effects of activities shall be managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) avoiding more than minor adverse effects, and (b) where more than minor adverse effects cannot be avoided, <u>minimising remedying</u> them, and (c) where more than minor adverse effects cannot <u>be completely avoided and/or minimised, they are remedied on-site remedied, mitigating them</u>, and (d) where residual adverse effects remain <u>it is appropriate to consider the use of biodiversity offsets may be required proposed or agreed to by an applicant</u>. <p>Proposals for <u>biodiversity mitigation</u> and biodiversity offsets will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule <u>G1 (biodiversity</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: These amendments provide greater effectiveness through greater specificity.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There may be costs for consent holders resulting from having to meet higher standards for addressing adverse effects.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a benefit to Plan users stemming from the greater clarity and specificity these amendments provide. There may be environmental benefits resulting from having to meet higher effects thresholds.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves some ambiguity in the provision.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
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			<p>mitigation) and Schedule G2 (biodiversity offsetting). A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.</p> <p>Where more than minor adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Policy P40 cannot be avoided, remedied, mitigated or redressed through biodiversity offsets, the activity is inappropriate.</p>	
	4 – Policies	Policy P42	<p>Policy P42: Protecting and restoring ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values</p> <p>In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Policy P40, particular regard shall be given to managing the adverse effects of use and development in surrounding areas on physical, chemical and biological processes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) maintain ecological connections within and between these habitats, or (b) provide for the enhancement of ecological connectivity between fragmented habitats through biodiversity offsets, and (c) provide adequate buffers around ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and 	N/A

			(d) avoid cumulative adverse effects on, and the incremental loss of the values of these ecosystems and habitats.	
S143/016	4 - Policies	Policy P43	<p>Policy P43: <u>Wetland</u> restoration and management plans</p> <p>Restoration activities that have more than minor adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity) are appropriate if they are undertaken as part of a <u>wetland</u> restoration management plan.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: The recommended amendment will ensure there is clarity that the restoration management plans are for wetlands in isolation. This amendment to Policy P43 will provide clarity for plan users and is therefore more efficient and effective than is set out in the proposed plan.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There are no costs associated with the recommended amendment.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The recommended amendments to the policy approach will ensure there is the appropriate level of clarity that Policy P43 is to develop wetland restoration management plans. This clarity will ensure the environmental and cultural benefits can be achieved.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
	4 - Policies	Policy P45	<p>Policy P45: Managing adverse effects on sites with significant mana whenua values</p> <p>In the first instance, activities in sites with</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p>

			<p>significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua) shall be avoided.</p> <p>If the site cannot be avoided, more than minor adverse effects on the significant mana whenua values must be evaluated through a cultural impact assessment undertaken by the relevant iwi authority or iwi authorities.</p> <p><u>Significant adverse effects on the significant values of the site shall be avoided. Other</u> The <u>Adverse</u> effects of activities shall be managed in accordance with tikanga and kaupapa Māori as recommended in the cultural impact assessment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) avoiding more than minor adverse effects, and (b) where more than minor adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimising remedying them, and (c) where more than minor adverse effects cannot be completely avoided and/or minimised, they are remedied on-site remedied, mitigating them, and completely avoided and/or minimised, they are remedied on-site remedied, mitigating them, and (d) receiving written consent of the iwi authority.⁵ <p>Where more than minor adverse effects on</p>	<p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
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⁵ ROR: Areas and sites with significant mana whenua values. Issue 9

			<p>significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua) cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, the activity is inappropriate. Offsetting of effects in sites with significant mana whenua values is inappropriate.</p> <p><u>The relevant iwi authority/ies shall be considered to be an affected party under RMA s95E for all activities which require resource consent within a Schedule C site where the adverse effects are minor or more than minor.²⁰</u></p>	
	4 – Policies	Policy P105	<p>Policy P105: Protecting trout habitat</p> <p>Particular regard shall be given to the protection of trout habitat in rivers with important trout habitat identified in Schedule I (trout habitat). The effects of use and development in and around these rivers shall be managed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) maintain or improve water quality in accordance with the objectives in Table 3.4 and Table 3.5 of Objective O25, and b) minimise changes in flow regimes that would otherwise prevent trout from completing their life cycle, and c) maintain the amount of pool, run and riffle habitat, and d) maintain fish passage for trout, and e) minimise adverse effects on the beds of trout spawning waters identified in Schedule 	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: In addition to Policy P105, Policy P31 also provides for the habitat needs for trout. Therefore, the recommendation to delete proposed Policy P105 in the decisions version of the plan will reduce repetition and therefore improve the efficiency of the proposed approach.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There are no costs associated with the proposed amendment.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): As stated above, this amendment will improve the efficiency of the policy approach to manage wetlands. However there will be no substantive environmental, economic, social, and cultural benefits.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: The risk of not acting is that there will be multiple policies which seek to implement trout habitat.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of</p>

			I (trout habitat).	addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.
S93/072 S163/114 S175/057 S311/028	5 - Rules	Wetlands general conditions	<p>Wetland general conditions for activities in natural wetlands, significant natural wetlands and outstanding natural wetlands are that:</p> <p>(g)(a) the vegetation and the bed of the natural wetland, significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland, shall not be disturbed to a depth or an extent greater than that required to undertake the activity.</p> <p>(a)(b) there shall be no discharge of contaminants (including but not limited to oil, petrol, diesel, paint, or solvent, heavy metals and other toxicants) to water or the bed, except where this is the result of the disturbance of other than sediment and other materials inherent to already existing in the water or bed, but excluding any discharge of heavy metals or other toxicants, and”</p> <p>(b)(c) no cleaning or refuelling of machinery or equipment, or storage of fuel, shall take place on any area in, or within 10m of, a natural wetland, a significant natural wetland, or an outstanding natural wetland, and fuel storage shall not occur or at any location where fuel can enter a water body, and</p> <p>(e)(d) all machinery, equipment and materials used for the activity shall be removed from the natural wetland, significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland,</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment improves the clarity of the rule and addresses a gap in the rule, making the plan more efficient and effective.</p> <p>Regulation 6 of the NES-PF provides for stringency to be placed where plantation forestry activities may have adverse effects on significant natural areas (Schedule F3) as described in the proposed Plan.</p> <p>It is proposed to impose setback distances across earthwork, harvesting and mechanical land preparation activities where they affect Schedule F3 sites. The setback distances are identical to the distances in the NES-PF.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides several potential benefits.</p> <p>First, the more explicit language provides greater clarity for plan users.</p> <p>Second, this amendment addresses the spreading of pests and contaminants from wetland to wetland, thus addressing a gap in the existing conditions.</p> <p>Third, there is potentially an increased environmental benefit by giving effect to high order documents (NES-PF Section 6) and improving the effectiveness of this provision.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: There is a high risk of not acting, that the decisions version will</p>

			<p>every night and on completion of the activity. This includes any excess material from the construction operation, any materials used during construction of any structure but not part of that structure, and any material removed or demolished from any structure, and</p> <p>(d)(e) structures are designed, installed and maintained, and activities are carried out in a manner to ensure that fish passage is maintained at all times, <u>unless a temporary restriction of no more than 48 hours is required for construction or maintenance activities.</u> and</p> <p>(e)(f) in any part of the natural wetland, <u>significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland with</u> inanga spawning habitat identified in Schedule F1b F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats), no bed disturbance, diversions of water or sediment discharge shall occur between 1 March and 31 May, and</p> <p>(f)(g) the diversion of water shall not be for longer than the time required to undertake the activity, and any diversion of water required to undertake the activity must be for fewer than 14 consecutive days, and must occur prior to the disturbance of the bed of the natural wetland, <u>significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland,</u> and</p>	<p>not provide clear outcomes nor will the significant biodiversity values of natural, significant and outstanding wetlands be afforded adequate protection.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: This is an important matter that requires recognition by the proposed Plan and provides useful clarification for plan users. There was potential confusion about how the provisions were intended to operate and this proposed change will ensure greater effectiveness of the provisions.</p> <p>In my opinion the proposed amendment is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA and the objectives of the proposed Plan, will have cultural, social, environmental and economic benefits, and will not reduce opportunities for economic growth or have a negative effect on employment.</p>
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			<p>(g) the vegetation and the bed of the natural wetland shall not be disturbed to a depth or an extent greater than that required to undertake the activity.</p> <p><u>(h) the following setback conditions apply to Plantation Forestry activities as covered by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation) Regulations 2017 :</u></p> <p><u>(a) earthworks must not occur within 10m of a Schedule F3 (Identified significant natural wetlands) site, and</u></p> <p><u>(b) harvesting machinery must not be operated within 10m of a Schedule F3 (Identified significant natural wetlands) site, and</u></p> <p><u>(c) mechanical land preparation must not occur within 10m of a Schedule F3 (Identified significant natural wetlands) site.</u></p> <p><u>Note</u></p> <p><u>Cleaning and inspection of all equipment, machinery, or operating plant may be required under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to prevent the spread of “pests” or “unwanted organisms”.</u></p> <p><u>The meaning of earthworks, harvesting machinery</u></p>	
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			<u>and mechanical preparation are defined in the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation) Regulations 2017.</u>	
S279/185 S311/029 S316/112		Rule R104: Structures in natural wetlands and significant natural wetlands	<p>The <u>use</u> maintenance, repair, addition, alteration, or replacement (like for like) of an existing <u>lawfully established structure or existing lawfully established regionally significant infrastructure, including associated vegetation removal</u>, and the placement of a new structure of an area less than 10m² for the purpose of hunting and recreation (including maimai and jetties), <u>wetland restoration, or the monitoring of wetland condition</u>, and the removal of an existing structure, in a <u>natural wetland</u> or <u>significant natural wetland</u>, including any associated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) disturbance of a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>natural wetland or significant natural wetland</u>, and (b) deposition in, on, or under a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>natural wetland or significant natural wetland</u>, and (c) damage to a part of the foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>natural wetland or significant natural wetland</u>, and (d) diversion of water, and (e) discharge of sediment to water <p>is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (f) only hand-held machinery is used in any area of the <u>natural wetland or significant natural wetland</u>, and <u>(g) any new structure is not located within a site</u> 	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment makes the provision more efficient and effective by filling gaps and loopholes that reduce the rule's effectiveness in its current state.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The proposed amendment provides greater clarity for plan users. It also provides cultural benefit through recognition and protection of mana whenua values. There are also potential environmental benefits resulting from preventing structures being altered to be larger than 10m².</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves multiple potential gaps or loopholes in the rule. Unamended, it would not account for mana whenua values, significant natural wetlands, and potentially permits the expansion of existing structures to more than 10m², with potentially adverse effects.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters.</p>

			<p><u>identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), and</u></p> <p><u>(h) any alteration or addition to an existing structure does not increase the size of the structure so that it occupies an area greater than 10m², and</u></p> <p>(g)(i) the activity shall comply with the wetland general conditions for activities in <u>natural wetlands, significant natural wetlands</u> and outstanding natural wetlands specified above in Section 5.5.2.</p>	
S75/144 S163/116 S307/073 S311/030		Rule R105: Planting and pest plant control in natural wetlands, significant natural wetlands and outstanding natural wetlands	<p>The deliberate introduction or planting of a plant, and the removal or control of pest plants in the bed of a <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland</u> including any associated:</p> <p>(a) disturbance of a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> and</p> <p>(b) deposition in, on, or under a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> and</p> <p>(c) damage to a part of the foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> and</p> <p>(d) diversion of water, and</p> <p>(e) discharge of sediment to water</p> <p>is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the Plan by providing more explicit guidance on what is and is not considered an appropriate plant species for a wetland.</p> <p>The amendment also closes a potential loophole in the rule by adding a reference to significant and outstanding natural wetlands.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment mostly benefits the clarity of the rule for plan users, particularly in regard to what plant species are and are not considered appropriate for wetlands.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear for users than it could be.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while retaining a</p>

			<p>(f) only appropriate indigenous wetland species <u>typical of the area and wetland type</u> are deliberately introduced or planted, and</p> <p>(g) only appropriate pest plant <u>species that are not typical of the area and wetland type</u> are deliberately removed or controlled, and</p> <p>(h) only agrichemicals approved by the Environmental Protection Authority <u>for use into and over surface water bodies</u> are used <u>and the conditions of Rule R37 (excluding clause (d)) are met</u>, and</p> <p>(i) agrichemicals are not applied by aerial spraying, and</p> <p>(j) only hand-held machinery is used in any area of the <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> and</p> <p>(k) the activity shall comply with the wetland general conditions for activities in <u>natural wetlands, significant natural wetlands, or outstanding natural wetlands</u> specified above in Section 5.5.2.</p> <p><i>Note</i></p> <p>The Wellington Regional Council provides advice on its website and upon request regarding the management of wetlands, including appropriate species to plant <u>(those that are typical of the area and wetland type)</u>, and appropriate pest plants to remove <u>(those that are not typical of the area and wetland type)</u>.</p>	<p>focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S279/187 S311/031	5 – Rules	Rule R106	<p>Rule R106: Restoration of <u>natural wetlands, significant natural wetlands,</u> and outstanding natural wetlands – controlled activity</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment is more efficient in that it reduces redundancy/duplication while enhancing clarity. As all natural wetlands have been classified as significant natural wetlands,</p>

		<p>Activities for the purpose of <u>the restoration of restoring</u> the indigenous biodiversity of a <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> identified in Schedule A3 (outstanding wetlands), that are not permitted by rules R104 and R105, are controlled activities provided the following condition is met:</p> <p>(a) the activities are stipulated in and carried out in accordance with an approved <u>wetland restoration management plan</u>.</p> <p>Matters of control</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal, damage or modification of indigenous vegetation 2. Changes to the hydrology of the <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> 3. Species for planting 4. Amount of disturbance and deposition that may occur 5. Timing of the activities 6. Management of sites with significant mana whenua values in any <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> wetland identified in Schedule C (mana whenua) 7. Type, frequency, density and timing of <u>livestock access to, and (where there is no practicable alternative) the limited location of fencing within the natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or Outstanding natural wetland</u> 8. Ongoing <u>natural wetland, significant natural wetland, or outstanding natural wetland</u> management 9. <u>Methods of pest control, including the use of</u> 	<p>referring to both is unnecessary.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The benefit lies in the greater clarity to Plan users that reducing ambiguity and redundancy creates. There is a potential environmental benefit to inserting methods of pest control as a matter of control, as this allows the Council to potentially reduce pest control methods with adverse effects.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would leave redundancy and ambiguity in the Plan, but in my view this presents a minor risk at most.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
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			<u>aerial spraying</u>	
S311/032	5 – Rules	Rule R107	<p>Rule R107: Activities in <u>natural wetlands and significant natural wetlands</u> – discretionary activity</p> <p>The following activities in a <u>natural wetland or significant natural wetland</u> except for those stipulated in and carried out in accordance with a restoration management plan under Rule R106:</p> <p>(a) the placement of new structures <u>with a footprint of 10m² or greater for the purpose of hunting and recreation (including maimai and jetties) and all other structures that do not meet the conditions of rule 104 with a footprint of 10m² or greater for the purpose of hunting and recreation (including maimai and jetties), and all other structures,</u></p> <p>(b) the discharge of water or contaminants not permitted by Rule R42,</p> <p>(c) the clearance of indigenous wetland vegetation, (excluding the removal of pest plants under Rule R105),</p> <p>(d) activities not meeting the conditions of Rules R104 or R105, including any associated:</p> <p>(e) disturbance of a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>significant natural wetland</u>, and</p> <p>(f) deposition in, on, or under a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>significant natural wetland</u>, and</p> <p>(g) damage to a part of the foreshore or seabed that forms part of a <u>significant natural wetland</u>, and</p> <p>(h) diversion of water, and</p> <p>(i) discharge of sediment to water</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment is more efficient in that it reduces redundancy/duplication while enhancing clarity. As all natural wetlands have been classified as significant natural wetlands, referring to both is unnecessary.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The benefit lies in the greater clarity to Plan users that reducing ambiguity and redundancy creates.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would leave redundancy and ambiguity in the Plan.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

			are discretionary activities.	
S311/033	5 – Rules	Rule R108	<p>Rule R108: Activities in natural wetlands and significant natural wetlands – non-complying activity</p> <p>The following activities, in a natural wetland or significant natural wetland except for those stipulated in and carried out in accordance with a wetland⁶ restoration management plan under Rule R106:</p> <p>(a) take, use damming or diverting water into, within or from the natural wetland or significant natural wetland, or the take and use of water within 50m of the significant natural wetland,</p> <p>(b) land disturbance including excavation and deposition,</p> <p>(c) reclamation (including and drainage or diverting of water to an extent that the area affected ceases to have the characteristics of a natural wetland or significant natural wetland),</p> <p>including any associated:</p> <p>(d) disturbance of a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a natural wetland or significant natural wetland and</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment is more efficient in that it reduces redundancy/duplication while enhancing clarity. As all natural wetlands have been classified as significant natural wetlands, referring to both is unnecessary.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The benefit lies in the greater clarity to Plan users that reducing ambiguity and redundancy creates.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would leave redundancy and ambiguity in the Plan, but in my view this presents a minor risk at most.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

⁶ S42A Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, Issue 6

			<p>(e) deposition in, on, or under a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a natural wetland or <u>significant natural wetland</u>, and</p> <p>(f) damage to a part of the foreshore or seabed that forms part of a natural wetland or <u>significant natural wetland</u>, and</p> <p>(g) diversion of water, and</p> <p>(h) discharge of sediment to water</p> <p>are non-complying activities</p>	
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S279/185	5 - Rules	Rule R109	<p>Rule R109: Activities in outstanding natural wetlands – discretionary activity The following activities in an outstanding natural wetland identified in Schedule A3 (outstanding wetlands), except those stipulated in and carried out in accordance with a restoration management plan under Rule R106:</p> <p>(a) the maintenance, repair or replacement (like for like) of existing structures,</p> <p>(b) the placement of new structures <u>with a footprint of 10m² or greater for the purpose of hunting and recreation (including maimai and jetties) and all other structures that do not meet the conditions of Rule R104 of an area less than 10m² for the purpose of hunting and recreation (including maimai and jetties);</u></p> <p>(c) the removal of existing structures,</p> <p>(d) removal of pest plants that are not permitted by Rule R105</p> <p>are discretionary activities.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan’s efficiency and effectiveness by reducing ambiguity and enhancing clarity in the rule.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater specificity and clarity to Plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the rule less clear than it could be, but not significantly so.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
	5 - Rules	Rule R110	<p>Rule R110: Activities in outstanding natural wetlands – non-complying activity The following activities, in an outstanding natural wetland identified in Schedule A3 (outstanding wetlands), except for those stipulated in and carried out in accordance with a restoration management plan under Rule R106:</p> <p>(a) the discharge of water or contaminants,</p> <p>(b) take, use damming or</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan’s efficiency and effectiveness by reducing ambiguity and enhancing clarity in the rule.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater specificity and clarity to Plan users.</p>

			<p>diverting water into, within or from the outstanding natural wetland, or the take and use of water within 50m of the outstanding natural wetland.</p> <p>(c) the placement of new structures with an area 10m² or greater for the purpose of hunting and recreation (including maimai and jetties), and all other structures,</p> <p>(d) land disturbance including excavation and deposition,</p> <p>(e) vegetation clearance, excluding the removal of pest plants under Rule R105,</p> <p>(f) other activities that are not discretionary under Rule R109 or prohibited by Rule R111</p> <p>are non-complying activities.</p>	<p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the rule less clear than it could be, but not significantly so.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S353/147		Rule R111: Reclamation or drainage of outstanding natural	Reclamation or drainage (including drainage or diverting of water to an extent that the area affected ceases to have the characteristics of a wetland) of all or part of an outstanding natural wetland identified in Schedule A3 (outstanding wetlands), except stipulated in and carried out in accordance	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment would make the rule more efficient and effective by providing greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p>

		wetlands – prohibited activity	with a wetland restoration management plan under Rule R106, is a prohibited activity	<p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): The amendment provides greater clarity to plan users through its more succinct wording.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the rule less clear than it could be.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the issues raised by the submitters.</p>
S279/185		<u>R104A: Structures in natural wetlands and significant natural wetlands within a site identified in Schedule C (mana whenua) – restricted discretionary activity</u>	<p><u>The placement of a new structure of an area less than 10m² for the purpose of hunting and recreation (including maimai and jetties), wetland restoration or the monitoring of wetland condition in a natural wetland or significant natural wetland that is identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), including any associated:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>disturbance of a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a natural wetland or significant natural wetland, and</u> b. <u>deposition in, on, or under a river or lake bed, or foreshore or seabed that forms part of a natural wetland or significant natural wetland, and</u> c. <u>damage to a part of the foreshore or seabed that forms part of a natural wetland or significant natural wetland, and</u> 	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan’s efficiency and effectiveness by providing greater provision for sites of significance to mana whenua and associated cultural values.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This new rule provides for greater consideration and protection of mana whenua values, thus providing notable cultural benefit.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would fail to appropriately provide for sites of significance to mana whenua, in contravention of the intent of the Plan.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters.</p>

			<p>d. <u>diversion of water, and</u></p> <p>e. <u>discharge of sediment to water</u></p> <p><u>is a restricted discretionary activity, provided the following conditions are met:</u></p> <p>(f) <u>any new structure must meet the conditions of Rule R104.</u></p> <p><u>Matters for discretion</u></p> <p>(c) <u>Effects on sites with significant mana whenua values</u></p>	
			<p>5.4.3 Livestock exclusion access⁷</p> <p>Rule R97: Livestock Aaccess to the beds of a surface water bodyies or the coastal marine area by livestock— permitted activity</p> <p>(e)(gf) from three years after the date of public notification of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (31.07.20195):</p> <p>(i) within an <u>identified significant natural wetland that is greater than 0.1 ha and listed in Schedule F3 (identified significant wetlands) livestock access is limited to sheep, and</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment makes the Plan more efficient and effective by removing ambiguity and making the provision clearer.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater certainty and clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the rule less clear for Plan users than it could be.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of</p>

⁷ S42A report: Land use in riparian margins and stock access to surface water bodies and the CMA, Issue 4.4

				addressing the concerns raised by submitters.
S75/187	6 – Other Methods	Method M7	<p>Method M7: Outstanding water bodies</p> <p>Wellington Regional Council will:</p> <p>(a) review criteria in the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region 2013 used to identify outstanding rivers and lakes for indigenous ecosystem values, and</p> <p>(b) use an expert panel to develop and apply criteria for outstanding recreational values of rivers and lakes in the region, and</p> <p>(c) work with territorial authorities to develop and apply criteria for outstanding landscape values of rivers and lakes, and</p> <p><u>(d) Work with mana whenua to develop and apply criteria to identify water bodies with outstanding cultural and spiritual values by June 2021, and</u></p> <p>(e) amend the Plan, after consultation with interested parties, through plan change or variation to include outstanding rivers and lakes identified in (a), (b) and (c) and (d) above.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This recommended amendment enhances the Plan's effectiveness by ensuring significance is framed widely, incorporating more than just ecological and recreational values. In my view working with mana whenua as part of this process is the most efficient way of achieving this, rather than doing an assessment of mana whenua values at a later date.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There may be costs associated with working with mana whenua, borne by both the Council and iwi.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment has a potentially significant cultural benefit in that it will recognise the values of water bodies to mana whenua and incorporate these values into the proposed Plan.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting could result in the Plan disregarding mana whenua values and cultural values when determining which water bodies are significant and thus requiring protection.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S352/242	6 – Other Methods	Method M9	<p>Method M9: Wairarapa Moana</p> <p>Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa, landowners and the community to restore the ecological values and</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment will make the method more effective by including landowners and giving them an opportunity to shape the process.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural):</p>

			<p>improve the water quality of Wairarapa Moana. Management activities will include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(a) monitoring, including kaitiaki and landowner information and monitoring, and</p> <p>(b) protecting and restoring the habitats of indigenous plants and animals, and</p> <p>(c) managing pest plants and animals, and introduced aquatic species that impact on indigenous biodiversity and</p> <p>(d) incorporating ecological, cultural and economic values into flood protection practices</p>	<p>There may be a cost to the Council associated with working with landowners as well as iwi.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a possible environmental benefit to also managing introduced aquatic species that have adverse impacts on indigenous biodiversity, as this may improve this indigenous biodiversity.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would exclude landowners from the process, which could compromise its chances of long-term success.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S75/188 S112/086 S117/082 S176/018	6 – Other Methods	Method M20	<p>Method M20: Wetlands</p> <p>Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with mana whenua, landowners, territorial authorities, and the community to:</p> <p>(a) promote the value of wetlands and advocate for their management, restoration and protection, and</p> <p>(b) provide guidance to landowners with wetlands on their property to assist with the management of those wetlands, including identification of wetland type, wetland boundaries, and appropriate management, and</p> <p>(c) develop and implement Wetland Restoration Management Plans for in partnership with landowners with outstanding natural wetlands</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment makes the Plan more effective in that it will require more detailed information about wetlands types and how best to manage them, potentially leading to better outcomes.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a potential cost to Council stemming from working in partnership with landowners and conducting the assessment necessary to distinguish between wetland type and delineate their boundaries.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a potential benefit in working with landowners in that it may enhance engagement and produce a more durable result. There are also potential environmental benefits in identifying appropriate management strategies in that this result in better management.</p>

			<p>and <u>significant natural</u> wetlands as required, and</p> <p>(d) provide incentives to landowners, such as assistance with the costs of riparian and wetland fencing, planting and pest control, and</p> <p>(e) encourage and assist with the legal protection of wetlands through covenanting with the QEII National Trust, the Department of Conservation and Ngā Whenua Rahui.</p>	<p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting could result in a process that does not fully engage landowners.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S75/075	6 – Other Methods	Method M20A	<p>Method M20A Coastal Sites that meet NZCPS Policy 11</p> <p><u>Wellington Regional Council will work with the Department of Conservation, territorial local authorities, iwi and other parties as appropriate to:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>identify sites in the coastal marine area or coastal environment within the region that meet the criteria set out in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Policy 11, and</u></p> <p>(b) <u>produce a regional list of these sites for inclusion in the Plan by plan change or variation.</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This method is the most efficient and effective means of giving effect to NZCPS Policy 11. It also could enhance the Plan's effectiveness by delineating areas of indigenous biodiversity and forming the basis of a policy framework to protect these areas.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a cost to the Council associated with working with DoC to implement this Method.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a potentially significant environmental benefit that could result from identifying and protecting these sites. This method would also help the Plan give effect to the NZCPS.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting would not comply with the NZCPS and its direction to identify and protect indigenous biodiversity in the coastal marine area.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

S112/087 S135/194	6 – Other Methods	Method M21	<p>Method M21: Fish passage</p> <p>Wellington Regional Council will support the maintenance and restoration of fish passage in the region by:</p> <p>(a) developing and providing information on fish passage, and</p> <p>(b) providing training and guidance to landowners and managers, including on design or retro-fitting of culverts and river crossing structures and</p> <p>(c) identifying priority areas for restoring fish passage in consultation with key stakeholders (including the Department of Conservation and landowners) and restoring fish passage in these areas as a priority areas.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment will enhance the effectiveness of the method by identifying the key areas for restoring fish passage and thus encouraging that passage be restored in these areas first.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There are potential costs the Council resulting from the more extensive consultation these amendments direct.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There is a potential environmental benefit in having better fish passage measures being used as a result on engaging DoC and landowners.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting may exclude DoC and the expertise they can bring as an organisation, as well as landowners.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider this amendment to be the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised in submissions while retaining a focus on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
	12 - Schedules	Schedule A1	<p>Add a preamble to Schedule A1:</p> <p>Rivers listed in Schedule A1 as having outstanding indigenous ecosystem values meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High macroinvertebrate health (MCI greater than 120) in areas with indigenous forest covering more than 80% of the upstream catchment; and • Indigenous fish diversity (habitat for six or migratory indigenous 	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness by clarifying what constitutes an outstanding indigenous ecosystem.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users by outlining the criteria for a river to be considered to have outstanding indigenous ecosystem values.</p>

S135/203			<p><u>fish species); and</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Threatened fish species (habitat for nationally threatened fish species); and</u> • <u>Large (5th order) rivers</u> <p>Change the name of the following river:</p> <p>Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River, upstream of a point 20 metres above the Kaitoke Dam <u>Weir</u></p>	<p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves this provision less clear than it could be, but I consider this risk to be low.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		Schedule A2	<p>Add a preamble to Schedule A2:</p> <p><u>Lakes listed in Schedule A2 as having outstanding indigenous ecosystem values meet the following criteria⁸:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Indigenous fish diversity (habitat for six or migratory indigenous fish species); and</u> • <u>Threatened fish species (habitat for nationally threatened fish species).</u> 	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness by clarifying what constitutes an outstanding indigenous ecosystem.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users by outlining the criteria for a lake to be considered to have outstanding indigenous ecosystem values.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves this provision less clear than it could be, but I consider this risk to be low.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of</p>

⁸ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 8

				addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.
S157/001		Schedule A3	<p>Add a preamble to Schedule A3:</p> <p><u>Wetlands listed in Schedule A3 as having outstanding indigenous ecosystem values meet the following criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>highly representative and either</u> • <u>have high rarity values or</u> • <u>are highly diverse.</u> <p>Add the following wetland to Schedule A3:</p> <p><u>Taupō Swamp Complex; Representativeness and rarity</u></p> <p>Change the names of the following wetlands:</p> <p>Pauatahanui <u>Inlet</u> Saltmarsh</p> <p>Pauatahanui <u>Inlet</u> Tidal Flats</p> <p>Te Hapua <u>Wetland Swamp Complex</u> A</p> <p>Te Harakeke <u>Wetland Swamp</u></p> <p>Waikanae <u>Saltmarsh River Mouth</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness by clarifying what constitutes an outstanding indigenous ecosystem.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users by outlining the criteria for a wetland to be considered to have outstanding indigenous ecosystem values.</p> <p>There is also the environmental benefit of the greater protection provided to the Taupo Swamp Complex, which has now been identified as having outstanding indigenous ecosystem values.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves this provision less clear than it could be, but I consider this risk to be low.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S66/012/025		Schedule F	<p>Amend the preamble as follows:</p> <p>Ecosystems and habitats <u>listed as having with</u> significant indigenous biodiversity values are those that meet the criteria set down in Policy 23 of the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region 2013 for representativeness, rarity, diversity</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p>

			and ecological context	<p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		Schedule F1	<i>Correction of Map Coordinates for Schedule F1: Rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems</i>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S286/031		Schedule F1a	<p>Reorder the fish species names so they are arranged alphabetically:</p> <p>Banded Kokopu Black flounder Bluegilled bully</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p>

			<p>Brown mudfish Common bully Common smelt Cran's bully Dwarf galaxias Giant bully</p>	<p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		Schedule F1b	<p>Add the following river mouths:</p> <p>Awhea River Kaiwharawhara Stream Kaiwhata Stream Lake Onoke and Ruamahanga River Lake Pounui Lagoon/ Lake Pounui Stream Ngakauau Stream Okau Stream Porirua and Kenepuru Streams Waiwhetu Stream Wharemauku Stream</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		Schedule F2	<p>Significant hHabitats for indigenous birds</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural):</p>

				<p>No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		Schedule F2a	<u>Significant h</u> Habitats for indigenous birds in rivers	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		Schedule F2b	<u>Significant h</u> Habitats for indigenous birds in lakes Amend the habitat extent column as follows:	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p>

S32/012			<p>Lakes Kohangatera and Kohangapiripiri Parangarahu Lakes, Lake Kohangapiripiri and Lake Kohangatera⁹ (including adjacent wetlands)</p>	<p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		Schedule F2c	<p>Significant hHabitats for indigenous birds in the coastal marine</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

⁹ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

<p>S133/024 S157/001 S302/073</p>		<p>Schedule F3</p>	<p>Amend the following wetland names:</p> <p>El Rancho Mānuka Wetlands Lake Huritini Swamp Swamp Kaitawa Reserve Swamp Forest Lake WKaitawa & Keelings Bush Muaupoko Swamp Forest Bush¹⁰ Ngā Manu Wetland Sanctuary Ōtaki River Mouth & Lagoon & Rangiruru Wetland Raumati South Peatlands B Te Hapua Wetland Swamp Complex¹¹ C Te Hapua Wetland Swamp Complex¹² E Unknown 40 Greenhill Swamp Waimeha Lagoon, Waikanae¹³ —Victor Weggery Reserve Waiorongomai Road¹⁴ Road Mānuka Wetland Waitohu River Mouth Saltmarsh¹⁵ Whareroa Farm Bush F Pauatahanui Inlet — Tidal Flats¹⁶ Taupō Swamp Complex¹⁷ Rerewhakaaitu Rivermouth¹⁸</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan’s efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan’s clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
		<p>Schedule F3a</p>	<p>Schedule F3a: Contents of <u>wetland</u> restoration management plans</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan’s efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan’s clarity for Plan users.</p>

¹⁰ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

¹¹ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

¹² S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

¹³ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

¹⁴ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

¹⁵ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

¹⁶ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 8, Consequential change

¹⁷ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 8, Consequential change

¹⁸ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

				<p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S32/053 S62/027		Schedule F4	<p>Add the following sites to Schedule F4:</p> <p><u>54195871755276</u> <u>Lake Kohangapiripiri is on rare occasion open to the sea and still possesses some estuarine characteristics such as brackish, shallow water and saltmarsh vegetation.</u> <u>There are various Threatened or At Risk plant species present in the estuarine system. Other plants of interest are gratiola, mudwort, kuāwa, prickly couch and swamp buttercup.</u> <u>Lake Kohangapiripiri provides seasonal or core habitat for two threatened indigenous fish species that are longer-lived species and require only intermittent recruitment, such as the longfin eel and giant kōkopu.</u></p> <p><u>Kohangatera Lake estuary</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

			<p><u>418787 1756076</u></p> <p><u>Lake Kohangatera is periodically open to the sea and still possesses estuarine characteristics such as brackish, shallow water and saltmarsh vegetation.</u></p> <p><u>There are various Threatened or At Risk plant species present in the estuarine system. Other plants of interest are gratiola, mudwort, kuāwa, prickly couch and swamp buttercup.</u></p> <p><u>Lake Kohangatera provides seasonal or core habitat for six threatened indigenous fish species: longfin eel, giant kōkopu, kōaro, inanga, redfin bully and lamprey.</u></p>	
S163/159		Schedule F5	<p>Amend the general descriptor as follows:</p> <p>Seagrass grows in soft sediments in NZ estuaries where its presence enhances estuarine biodiversity. Seagrass is highly valued ecologically for the ecosystem services it supports, such as, primary production, nutrient recycling, sediment stabilisation, and as a nursery for fish and invertebrates. Seagrass is also an important forerunner to the establishment of healthy saltmarsh on tidal flats.</p> <p>Though tolerant of a wide range of conditions, seagrass is vulnerable to high levels of suspended sediments, <u>high levels of nitrogen</u>,¹⁹ and poor sediment quality.</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

¹⁹ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 9

<p>S75/207 S75/208 S110/017 S286/055 S352/278 S353/180</p>		<p>Schedule G1</p>	<p>Principles to be applied when proposing and considering mitigation and offsetting in relation to biodiversity</p> <p>This schedule details the principles that should be used to guide the development of biodiversity mitigation and biodiversity offsetting proposals. These principles will be used when assessing the adequacy of proposals for the design and implementation of biodiversity mitigation and biodiversity offsetting as part of resource consents issued under this Plan.</p> <p>Any biodiversity mitigation or biodiversity offset proposed to manage adverse effects on biodiversity under Policies P32 and P41 should be designed and implemented with regard to any current guidance or direction from central government in relation to mitigation or biodiversity offsets.</p> <p>The numbering of the principles in this schedule is solely for convenience and should not be interpreted as an indication of relative importance. Principles 1-5 apply to the proposal and consideration of both mitigation and biodiversity offsets relating to adverse effects on biodiversity. Principle 6 applies solely to the proposal and consideration of biodiversity offsets relating to residual adverse effects on biodiversity.</p> <p>1. Adherence to the mitigation hierarchy</p> <p>The proposed biodiversity mitigation</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: Separating Schedule G into two parts, G1 (Principles for mitigation) and G2 (Principles for offsetting), along with the proposed definitions for biodiversity mitigation and biodiversity offsetting, clearly distinguish the difference between the terms mitigation and offsetting and clarify the sequential order in which the mitigation hierarchy must be applied, which is specific and critical. These amendments should significantly increase the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness as there is much misuse, and therefore partial failure, of the mitigation hierarchy.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): There may be additional costs for resource users in applying the mitigation hierarchy in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users and should result in more appropriate environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting is likely to result in the mitigation hierarchy continuing to be used in a less than optimal manner. In particular, users tend to skip many of the mitigation steps (first avoid, then minimise, then remedy), with no documentation, and move straight to offering offsets. Acting will make it clear that the steps of biodiversity mitigation are independent from the offering of biodiversity offsets.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
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			<p>or biodiversity offset will be assessed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy set out in Policies P32 and P41. Any proposal for biodiversity mitigation or biodiversity offset will:</p> <p>(a) document and clearly delineate the appropriate measures taken to <u>respectively</u> avoid, remedy, minimise, or mitigate remedy any adverse effects of the activity on biodiversity, and</p> <p>(b) demonstrate that the mitigation addresses the adverse effects of the activity, or that the biodiversity offset addresses the residual adverse effects of the activity.</p> <p>2. Limits to what can be mitigated or offset</p> <p>Consideration of mitigation or biodiversity offsetting is inappropriate when an activity has the potential to cause adverse effects, or residual adverse effects, on an area:</p> <p>(a) where the values of that area are highly vulnerable or irreplaceable, or</p> <p>(b) where there is no appropriate site, knowledge, proven</p>	
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~~methods, expertise or mechanism available to design and implement an adequate mitigation or biodiversity offset.~~

~~3-2.~~ Additional conservation outcomes

Any proposal for **biodiversity mitigation** ~~or biodiversity offset~~ will:

(a) demonstrate that ~~positive effects on biodiversity~~ the actions to mitigate adverse effects on biodiversity are additional to what would have occurred without the proposed mitigation ~~or biodiversity offset, and~~

~~(b) incorporate the activities outlined in any associated resource consent/s and would not have occurred without them, including any activities required by any associated resource consent/s.~~

~~4-3.~~ Landscape context

Any proposals for **biodiversity mitigation** ~~or biodiversity~~ will:

(a) demonstrate that **positive**

			<p>effects are achieved at the site, or where appropriate within the ecological district</p> <p>the proposed actions to mitigate adverse effects will be undertaken at the same location as the activity that causes them, and</p> <p>(b) complement and contribute to the protection of significant indigenous vegetation, or the habitats of threatened fauna at the local, regional or national level, and</p> <p>(c) take into account available information on the full range of biological, social and cultural values of biodiversity and support an ecosystem-scale approach, and</p> <p>(d) take into consideration other likely future developments, such as competing land use pressures, within the landscape.</p> <p><u>5.4.</u> Long-term outcomes</p> <p>Any proposals for biodiversity mitigation or biodiversity offset should</p>	
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			<p>be based on an adaptive management approach, incorporating monitoring and evaluation, with the objective of securing outcomes that last at least as long as the activity's impacts, and preferably in perpetuity.</p> <p>The proposed biodiversity mitigation or biodiversity offset will:</p> <p>(a) demonstrate that management arrangements, legal arrangements (e.g. covenants) and financial arrangements (e.g. bonds) are in place that allow the positive effects to endure as long as the adverse effects of the activity <u>for as long as the adverse effects of the activity</u>, and preferably in perpetuity, and</p> <p>(b) be able to be implemented and enforced in line with any resource consent conditions associated with the activity. These conditions should include:</p> <p>i. specific, measurable and time-bound targets, and</p>	
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			<p>ii. mechanisms for adaptive management using the results of periodic monitoring and evaluation against identified milestones to determine whether the <u>biodiversity mitigation</u> or biodiversity offset is on track and how to rectify if necessary</p> <p>(c) establish roles and responsibilities for managing, governing, monitoring and enforcing the <u>biodiversity mitigation</u> or biodiversity offset, and</p> <p>(d) undertake methods by which analysis will identify when milestones of the <u>biodiversity mitigation</u> or biodiversity offset are not achieved, and the causes of non-achievement, and how to revise the management plan to avoid similar occurrences.</p> <p>6- No net biodiversity loss</p>	
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			<p>Any proposals for biodiversity offsets will provide measurable positive effects on biodiversity at the site or, where appropriate, within the ecological district, which can reasonably be expected to result in no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity.</p> <p>No net loss of biodiversity is determined with respect to species composition (e.g. individual species or species groups), habitat structure (e.g. vegetation tiers), ecosystem health (e.g. nutrient cycling rates), and cultural use values (e.g. valued habitats or species).</p> <p>Any proposals for biodiversity offset will demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) an explicit calculation of loss and gain has been undertaken as the basis for the biodiversity offset design, and should demonstrate the manner in which no net loss or a net gain of biodiversity can be achieved by the biodiversity offset, and (b) the biodiversity offset design and implementation should include provisions for addressing sources of uncertainty and risk of failure in delivering the biodiversity offset. 	
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<p>S75/065 S75/074 S75/207 S75/208 S110/017</p>		<p><u>Schedule G2</u></p>	<p><u>Principles to be applied when proposing and considering a biodiversity offset</u> <u>This schedule details the principles that should be used to guide the development of biodiversity offsets. These principles will be used when assessing the adequacy of proposals for the design and implementation of offsetting as part of resource consents issued under this Plan.</u></p> <p><u>Any biodiversity offsetting proposed to manage adverse effects on biodiversity under Policies P32 and P41 should be designed and implemented with regard to any current guidance or direction from central government in relation to biodiversity offsets.</u></p> <p><u>The numbering of the principles in this schedule is solely for convenience and should not be interpreted as an indication of relative importance.</u></p> <p>1. <u>Adherence to the mitigation hierarchy</u></p> <p><u>The proposed biodiversity offset will be assessed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy set out in Policies P32 and P41. Any proposal for a biodiversity offset will demonstrate how it addresses the residual adverse effects of the activity.</u></p> <p>2. <u>Limits to what can be offset</u></p> <p><u>Consideration of biodiversity offsetting is inappropriate when an activity has the potential to is anticipated to cause residual adverse effects on an area after</u></p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: As discussed for Schedule G1, this amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness by enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users by clearly setting out the principles to be applied in offering offsets which are in line with best practice and internationally recognised principles.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): Clarification of appropriate offsetting principles should result in better environmental outcomes from activities which offer offsets to redress adverse environmental effects.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
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			<p><u>an offset has been implemented where:</u></p> <p>a) <u>there is no appropriate site, knowledge, proven methods, expertise or mechanism available to design and implement an adequate biodiversity offset, or</u></p> <p>b) <u>when an activity is anticipated to cause residual adverse effects on an area after an offset has been implemented where:</u></p> <p><u>ai. the ecosystems or species are "threatened" (as defined by the New Zealand Threat Classification System categories: Nationally Critical (NC), Nationally Endangered (NE), and Nationally Vulnerable (NV)), or</u></p> <p><u>bii. the ecosystem is naturally uncommon, or</u></p> <p><u>(c) there is no appropriate site, knowledge, proven methods, expertise or mechanism available to design and implement an adequate biodiversity offset.</u></p> <p><u>3. Additional conservation outcomes</u></p>	
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			<p><u>Any proposal for a biodiversity offset will demonstrate that the actions taken to achieve positive effects on biodiversity are additional to what would have occurred without the proposed biodiversity offset, including any activities required by any associated resource consent/s.</u></p> <p><u>4. Landscape context</u></p> <p><u>Any proposals for biodiversity offsetting will:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>demonstrate that positive effects are achieved preferentially, first at the site, then the relevant catchment, then within the ecological district, except where there is an appropriate ecological rationale for doing otherwise, and</u></p> <p>(b) <u>complement and contribute to the protection of significant indigenous vegetation, or the habitats of threatened fauna at the local, regional or national level, and</u></p> <p>(c) <u>take into account available information on the full range of biological, social and cultural values of biodiversity</u></p>	
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			<p><u>and supports an ecosystem-scale approach, and</u></p> <p>(d) <u>take into consideration other likely future developments, such as competing land use pressures, within the landscape.</u></p> <p>5. <u>Long-term outcomes</u></p> <p><u>Any proposals for biodiversity offset should be based on an adaptive management approach, incorporating monitoring and evaluation, with the objective of securing outcomes that last at least as long as the activity's impacts, and preferably in perpetuity.</u></p> <p><u>The proposed biodiversity offset will:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>demonstrate that management arrangements, legal arrangements (e.g. covenants) and financial arrangements (e.g. bonds) are in place that allow the positive effects to endure as long as the residual adverse effects of the activity, and preferably in perpetuity, and</u></p> <p>(b) <u>be able to be implemented and enforced in line with any resource consent conditions</u></p>	
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			<p><u>associated with the activity. These conditions should include:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>specific, measurable and time-bound targets, and</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>mechanisms for adaptive management using the results of periodic monitoring and evaluation against identified milestones to determine whether the biodiversity offset is on track and how to rectify if necessary</u></p> <p>(c) <u>establish roles and responsibilities for managing, governing, monitoring and enforcing the biodiversity offset, and</u></p> <p>(d) <u>undertake methods by which analysis will identify when milestones of the biodiversity offset are not achieved, and the causes of non-achievement, and how to</u></p>	
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			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>revise the offset management plan to avoid similar occurrences.</u></p> <p>6. <u>No net biodiversity loss</u></p> <p><u>Any proposals for biodiversity offsets will provide measurable positive effects on biodiversity preferentially, first at the site, then the relevant catchment, then within the ecological district, which can reasonably be expected to result in no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity.</u></p> <p><u>No net biodiversity loss means no reasonably measurable overall reduction in:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>(a) the diversity of indigenous species or recognised taxonomic units; and</u> <u>(b) indigenous species' population sizes (taking into account natural fluctuations) and long term viability; and</u> <u>(c) the natural range inhabited by indigenous species; and</u> <u>(d) the range and ecological health and functioning of assemblages of indigenous species, community types and ecosystems</u> <u>(e) the cultural use values of indigenous habitats or species.</u> 	
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			<p><u>Any proposals for biodiversity offset will demonstrate:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>that an explicit calculation of loss and gain has been undertaken as the basis for the biodiversity offset design, and should demonstrate the manner in which no net loss, and preferably a net gain of biodiversity, can be achieved by the biodiversity offset, and</u></p> <p>(b) <u>that the biodiversity offset design and implementation should include provisions for addressing sources of uncertainty and risk of failure in delivering the biodiversity offset, and</u></p> <p>(c) <u>that the offset is applied so that the ecological values being achieved through the offset are the same or similar to those being lost, and</u></p> <p>(d) <u>the intention to include and use a biodiversity offset management plan that:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) <u>sets out baseline information on the indigenous biodiversity that is</u></p>	
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			<p><u>potentially impacted by the proposed activity at both the donor and recipient sites, and</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>demonstrates how the requirements set out in this schedule will be carried out, and</u></p> <p>(iii) <u>identifies the monitoring approach that will be used to demonstrate how the matters set out in this schedule have been addressed over an appropriate timeframe.</u></p>	
S352/282		Schedule I	<p>Add the following preamble:</p> <p><u>Note</u></p> <p><u>Schedule I only applies to tributaries that are specifically listed.²⁰</u></p> <p>Amend the list of important trout fishery rivers as</p>	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural):</p>

²⁰ S42A Report: Wetlands and biodiversity, Issue 10

			<p>follows: Huangarua River Karori Stream Kaiwharawhara Stream Korokoro Stream³⁴ Lake Kourarau³⁴ Mangaone Stream³⁴ Mangaroa River Makara Stream³⁴ Orongorongo River Otakura Stream³⁴ Tauherenikau River³⁴ Whakatikei River</p> <p>Amend the list of important trout spawning waters as follows: Whakatikei Stream <u>River</u> Flighty's Stream²¹ Plateau Stream Pukehinau Stream-Plateau Stream Tauweru River Whangaehu Stream</p>	<p>This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p> <p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
S146/033 S163/159	Maps	Identified significant natural wetlands (Schedule F3)	Map number 18A	<p>Effectiveness and efficiency: This amendment enhances the Plan's efficiency and effectiveness enhancing the Plan's clarity for Plan users.</p> <p>Costs (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): No new costs.</p> <p>Benefits (environmental, economic, social, and cultural): This amendment provides greater clarity to plan users.</p>

²¹ S42A Report: Wetlands

				<p>Risk of acting or not acting: Not acting leaves the Plan less clear than it needs to be which could inadvertently result in adverse environmental impacts.</p> <p>Decision about most appropriate option: I consider that this amendment is the most appropriate means of addressing the concerns raised by submitters while focusing on efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
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