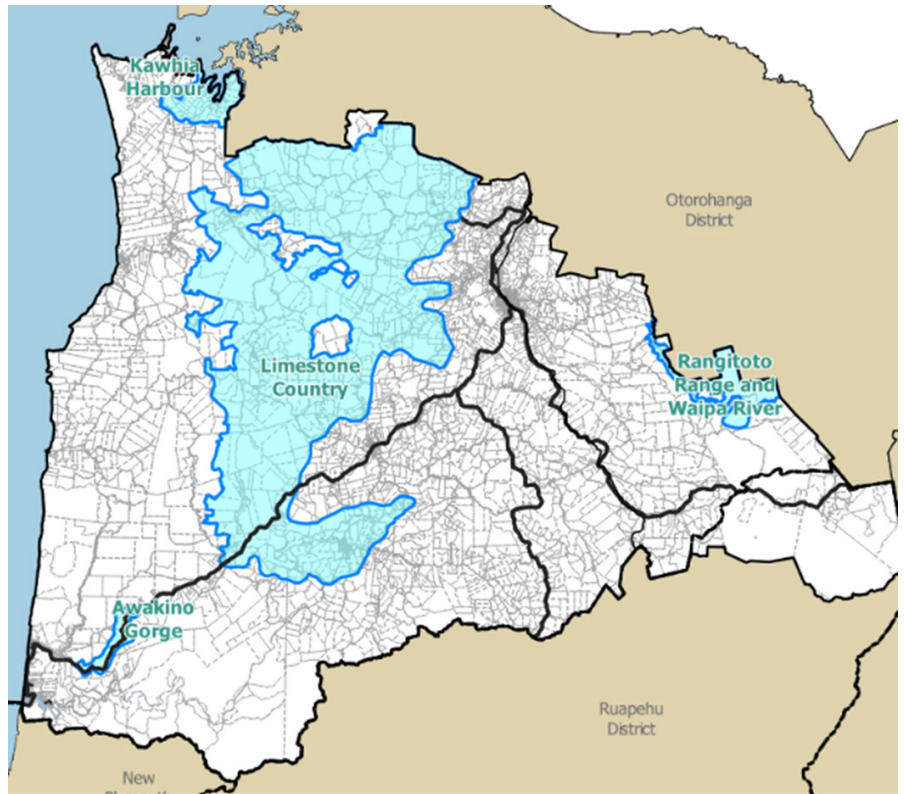


# LANDSCAPES OF HIGH AMENITY VALUE

This colour and outline identifies the Landscapes of High Amenity Value on the Planning Maps

The Waikato Regional Policy Statement requires that Council identifies areas of high amenity value. Landscapes of High Amenity Value (LHAVs) are managed to maintain and enhance their rural character and naturalness while allowing for the ongoing use of rural land for agricultural, pastoral and horticultural activities.

In general, amenity landscapes have a reduced level of protection. The proposed LHAVs in our district are generally working pastoral landscapes. There are limited restrictions proposed – most of the time the rules in the underlying General Rural Zone will apply.



## How have LHAVs been identified?

Council contracted a landscape architect to identify the areas. This was the first time a comprehensive assessment of the landscape values of our district has been carried out. Four proposed LHAVs have been identified:

- Awakino gorge (pictured above)
- Limestone country – along the central spine of the district
- Rangitoto range and the Waipa valley
- Part of Kawhia Harbour

These four proposed LHAVs make up about 23% of the district's land area. The proposed LHAVs are shown in light blue on the map below. You can use the [Draft DP Snapshot tool](#) to find out if there is an LHAV located on your property.

## What are the differences proposed between the current and the draft district plans?

- The current district plan contains two landscape policy areas around Waitomo Caves and Mokau-Awakino. Only a small part of the Waitomo Caves landscape policy area is included in the proposed LHAVs in the new plan
- The proposed LHAV overlay is mostly located in the General Rural Zone. It also covers the settlements of Aria, Te Waitere and Kinohaku

## The draft rules we are looking at are:

There are three main differences from the rules in the general rural zone:

- In the proposed LHAVs, 500m<sup>3</sup> of earthworks per holding per calendar year is permitted. This is compared to 2000m<sup>3</sup> in the General Rural Zone
- In the proposed LHAVs, the volume of earthworks permitted for farm quarries is 500m<sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year is permitted. This is compared to 1000m<sup>3</sup> in the General Rural Zone.
- Buildings higher than 8m and/or larger than 300m<sup>2</sup> will need a resource consent

In the settlement zone:

- In Te Waitere and Kinohaku buildings higher than 8m and/or larger than 300m<sup>2</sup> will need a resource consent
- In Aria structures higher than 8m will need a resource consent. There is no floor area limit

Click [here](#) to read the fact sheet for the General Rural Zone.

Click [here](#) to read the fact sheet for the Settlement Zone.

**Please note this factsheet is a summary and does not include the full set of rules. You can read the full set of rules [here](#)**