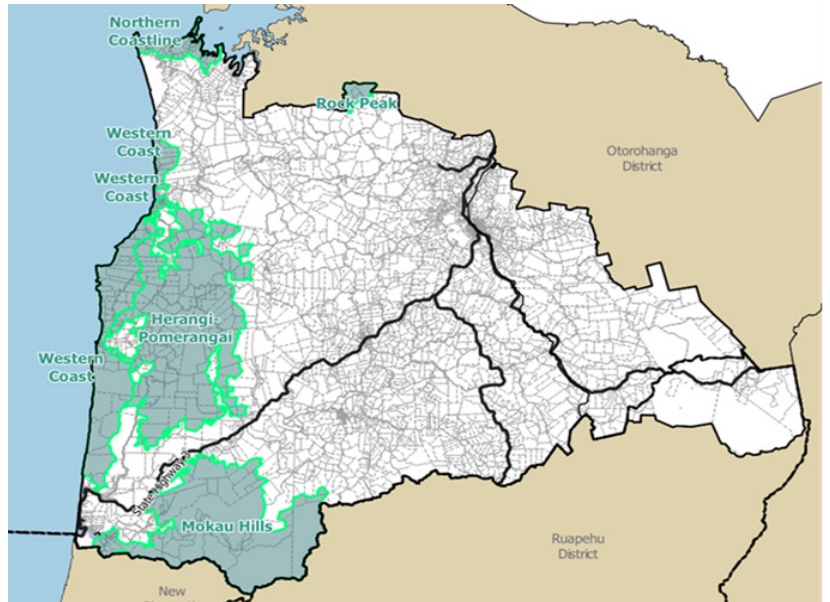


# OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPES

This colour and outline identifies the Outstanding Natural Landscapes on the Planning Maps

Our district is a beautiful place - wild, remote, highly natural and rugged. The Resource Management Act requires Council to identify and protect those landscapes that meet stated criteria as outstanding natural landscapes (ONL). ONLs have very high values and they are particularly sensitive to change.



## How have ONLs 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. Using the criteria prescribed in the Waikato and Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Policy Statements, five ONLs have been identified:

- Herangi-Pomerangai
- Northern Coastline
- Western Coast
- Rock Peak
- Mokau Hills (pictured above)

These five proposed ONLs make up about 21% of the district's land area. A lot of the land in the proposed ONL overlay is part of the conservation estate. Only 11% of the total area identified as ONL is developed or farmed.

The proposed ONLs are shown in grey with a green outline on the map below. You can use the [Draft DP Snapshot tool](#) to find out if there is an ONL located on your property.

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

- The current district plan contains two landscape policy areas around Waitomo Caves and Mokau-Awakino. These areas did not meet the criteria as ONLs in the new plan
- The proposed ONL overlay is mostly located in the General Rural Zone. It also covers the settlement of Te Maika
- Generally, the rules of the underlying zone apply, so activities like

pastoral farming are not restricted by the proposed ONL overlay

- However, most buildings, some earthworks, some removal of native vegetation and plantation forestry may need a resource consent

## The draft rules we are looking at are:

- Except in Te Maika, if your building is higher than 5m and/or bigger than 30m<sup>2</sup> you will need a resource consent
- New tanks or silos higher than 3.2m and/or with a capacity greater than 30,000 litres will need a resource consent
- Earthworks or farm quarries disturbing volumes greater than 250m<sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar will need a resource consent. Large commercial quarries are not appropriate within the ONL overlay
- There are limits on planting and harvesting exotic plantation forestry that are different depending on which proposed ONL your property is located in
- Continuous cover forestry, sustainable forest management and sustainable harvesting is permitted
- Clearing areas of indigenous vegetation greater than 5,000m<sup>2</sup> per holding per calendar will need a resource consent, but if the vegetation is in a Significant Natural Area then other rules apply. Click [here](#) to read the fact sheet on Significant Natural Areas
- Vegetation clearance is also restricted close to waterways, the open coast and cave entrances

Click [here](#) to read the fact sheet for the general rural zone.

Click [here](#) to read the fact sheet for the Te Maika Precinct.

**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](#)**