

SITES AND AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MĀORI

This colour and pattern identifies the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori on the Planning Maps



Sites and areas of significance to Māori are places and features that are of historical, cultural and/or spiritual significance to Māori. They carry deep levels of meaning and association for mana whenua.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires Council to recognise and provide for the relationship Māori and their culture and traditions have with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga, as a matter of national importance.

The current district plan identifies 129 sites of cultural importance and includes 5 wāhi tapu sites which are registered with Heritage New Zealand.

The new plan identifies 165 sites and areas of significance to Māori and includes 8 wāhi tapu sites which are registered with Heritage New Zealand. The same rules are proposed for both types of site.

How were the sites assessed?

- Council staff worked with staff from the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board and kaumātua representatives from each of the regional management committees to identify the sites and to confirm the existing 129 sites. Each site falls into one of 12 categories
- The 8 wāhi tapu sites were identified under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014
- Many of these sites are also an archaeological site

How are the draft rules different from the current rules?

- The current rules allow building owners to trim trees near power lines, but any other changes to the site, alterations (including planting trees), destruction, demolition or removal or relocation needs a resource consent
- The draft rules only apply to the identified area and allow more leeway than the current rules. Accessory buildings, shipping containers, decks and additions to houses (subject to size), some signs and building demolition are permitted
- Earthworks where the volume is less than 5m³ are permitted along with earthworks for maintaining and upgrading fence lines, farm tracks and driveways, new fences to exclude stock from water bodies, some conservation planting and wetland restoration
- Stock grazing, cultivation and domestic gardening are

permitted

- Marae, pā kāinga (dependent on zone rules) and burials in urupā are permitted
- A consent is needed if you want to reposition or relocate a building within a scheduled site, destroy the listed feature or undertake plantation forestry
- We are currently considering whether a buffer area should apply around the sites. The buffer area we are thinking about is either 50 m or 100 m. A note to the plan would be added advising people they are close to a significant site.

My property is recommended to be on the list - how will this impact how I use it?

- Firstly, as soon as the new plan is notified, the rules have immediate effect. The RMA identifies some matters that are so important that the rules are put in place as soon as public notice of a proposed plan is given
- If you disagree with the listing of a site on your property please contact us as soon as possible. You can also make a formal submission to the new district plan, but because the rules are live immediately, it is very important to contact us quickly
- You can carry on using your property as you currently are, but please be mindful of the rules that apply to the area that is identified

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