

# Waitomo District Council

Hearing on submissions on the Proposed Waitomo District Plan

## Report and Decisions of the Independent Hearing Commissioners

Decision Report:

Chapter 28. Natural features and landscapes

19 June 2025

Commissioners

Greg Hill (Chair)

**Wikitōria Tāne**

Allan Goddard

Phil Brodie

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction .....	3
2.	Hearing arrangements.....	3
3.	Section 42A Report and Addendum Report .....	4
4.	Panel decision .....	4
5.	Conclusion .....	6
6.	Appendix 1 – Submission Table .....	7
7.	Appendix 2 – Decisions Version of the Chapter.....	8
8.	Appendix 3 – Section 32AA Evaluation .....	9

# 1. Introduction

1. This Decision Report relates to all the submissions received by the Waitomo District Council (Council) on chapter 28 natural features and landscapes. This includes related provisions within the Proposed Waitomo District Plan (PDP) such as Definitions (Chapter 9) and Appendices and Schedules (Part 4).
2. The chapter seeks to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes in line with section 6(b) of the RMA, and appropriately manage other highly valued natural areas, being landscapes of high amenity value and the karst overlay.

## 2. Hearing arrangements

3. The hearing was held in person and online on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 November 2024 **in Council's offices at 15 Queen Street, Te Kūiti**. All of the relevant information pertaining to this hearing (i.e., section 42A reports, legal **submissions and evidence**) is contained on **Council's website**.
4. The following parties submitted on this chapter.

Submission no	Submitter
46	Federated Farmers
42	Ventus Energy
47	Forest and Bird
43	Graymont (NZ) Ltd
38	Te Tokanganui- a-noho Whare (TTRMC)
50	Te Nehenehenui
33	King Country Energy
09	Chorus New Zealand Limited, Connexa Limited, Spark, New Zealand Trading Limited and Vodafone New Zealand Limited
31	Transpower New Zealand Ltd (Transpower)
10	Waikato Regional Council (WRC)
18	Auckland Waikato Fish and Game (AWFG)
19	PF Olsen
30	New Zealand Forest Managers (NZFM)

21	New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)
FS23	Te Nehenehenui
FS10	King Country Energy
FS05	Federated Farmers
FS20	Sheryl Paekau
FS03	Department of Conservation (DoC)
FS30	Transpower New Zealand Ltd (Transpower)
FS26	Waikato Regional Council (WRC)
FS17	NZ Speleological Society
FS08	Graymont (NZ) Ltd
FS12	Manulife Forest Management (NZ) Ltd
FS19	PF Olsen
FS22	Chorus New Zealand Limited, Connexa Limited, Spark New Zealand Trading Limited and Vodafone New Zealand Limited

### 3. Section 42A Report and Addendum Report

5. Unless otherwise stated in the Panel decision below, the Panel has elected to adopt the outcomes of the Section 42A Report and further amendments made in the Section 42A Addendum Report on this chapter.

### 4. Panel decision

6. Having considered the submissions and evidence presented, the Panel agrees that the natural features and landscapes chapter appropriately gives effect to **the RMA's requirement to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes** from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The Panel agrees that the chapter appropriately identifies and manages areas of high value to the community, including the karst overlay and landscapes of high amenity. The Panel found that:
- The five identified outstanding natural landscapes and 76 outstanding natural features are supported by regional policy criteria (or criteria agreed with both regional councils), and robust assessment methods.
  - The provisions appropriately **acknowledge and respect mana whenua's** kaitiaki role and relationship with the landscape, including the importance of associative cultural values that are not publicly recorded.

- Landscapes of high amenity value are managed to retain rural character while supporting appropriate rural-based uses.
  - The karst overlay provisions are necessary to protect unique hydrological, geological and ecological systems and processes that are vulnerable to vegetation clearance, forestry, quarrying and earthworks.
  - The policy and rule framework across the landscape categories is proportionate, based on identified values, was robustly assessed and is aligned with district and regional expectations.
7. The Panel noted that in respect of NFLs, submitter statements indicate that Chorus et al and Transpower had no substantive outstanding matters from **either organisation's perspective**. Similarly, no outstanding matters were raised by Ms Frances Casey for Federated Farmers of New Zealand or in Waikato **Regional Council's written statement**.
8. On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, Terry Calmeyer and Benjamin Murray appeared at the hearing on behalf of Graymont (New Zealand) Ltd. The Panel noted **Graymont's support for the majority of the NFL provisions. Ms Calmeyer sought** and amendment to NFL-P5.3 so that it reads:
- Ensuring that the effects of ~~Avoiding~~ any activity, particularly vegetation clearance and large-scale earthworks including quarrying activities, where these will adversely affect the values of the karst systems or features are avoided in the first instance, and where this is not practicable, remedied or mitigated; and
9. The Panel considered this request at length. Given the changes proposed to the **natural character chapter in respect of the "absolute avoid" direction in the policy framework, the Panel considered whether the amendment should 'avoid as far as practicable'** to align with the other changes. The Panel noted that the header sentence in NFL-P5 seeks to recognise, protect, and where practicable, enhance the values of the karst overlay. **On balance, although there are two "as far as practicable", the Panel consider that an amendment should be made simply to clarify the policy assertion that in this instance the 'avoid' is not absolute.** The Panel directed the following amendment in **green**:
- .....
- Avoiding **as far as practicable**, any activity, particularly vegetation clearance and large-scale earthworks including quarrying activities, where these will adversely affect the values of the karst systems or features; and
10. Ms Calmeyer also considered that a new rule is required to specifically provide for fencing around karst features at a 20 m radius. Fencing that could not comply would become a controlled activity. The Panel agreed with the section 42A report and its Addendum that fencing is provided for in the plan. The Panel noted that the advisory note proposed to be added to the end of NFL-R16 and R17 appropriately clarified that fencing to protect a karst feature and associated digging holes for fence posts within the 20m radius is permitted. The Panel did not consider that a controlled activity rule to consider this matter was necessary.
11. Otherwise, unless stated in the Panel decision above, the Panel has elected to adopt the recommendations in the Section 42A Report and the Section 42A Addendum Report on this chapter.

## 5. Conclusion

12. The Panel accepts the recommendations in the section 42A reports and where noted above, the evidence filed by the submitters. The reasons for this are those set out in the section 42A reports, the evidence, and provided in this Decision; collectively forming the section 32AA assessment informing this Decision.
13. Overall, the Panel is satisfied that the provisions of the chapter, as amended, will **provide a clear and effective framework to protect the district's most** significant natural landscapes, aligns with regional and national policy and supports the exercise of kaitiakitanga by mana whenua.
14. The Panel accepts, accepts in part, or rejects the submissions as set out in the section 42A reports.

For the Hearing Panel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hill', followed by a period.

Greg Hill, Chair  
Dated: 19 June 2025

## 6. Appendix 1 – Submission Table

## Natural features and landscapes – Submission points in order of plan provision

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
46.50	Federated Farmers	Support	Entire chapter	Retain chapter 28 Natural Features and Landscapes permitted activity rules and performance standards unless other more specific relief is sought in the submission. And Any consequential amendments required as a result of the relief sought.	Accept in part
46.51	Federated Farmers	Oppose	Landscapes of high amenity value	<p>Delete from chapter 28 Natural Features and Landscapes all objectives, policies and rules relating to landscapes of high amenity value. And Add a new objective to chapter 28 Natural Features and Landscapes as follows:</p> <p><u>NFL-XX</u> Recognise the attributes which contribute to identified landscapes of high amenity value.</p> <p><u>This objective will be implemented by the relevant zone rules which control effects of land use relative to the zone.</u></p> <p>And/or Add the following advice note:</p> <p><u>Note: There are no rules relating specifically to high amenity landscapes. However, where discretionary or non-complying activity resource consents are required under rules of this Plan, and where those activities are located within these landscapes the proposed activities will be assessed in terms of their consistency with this objective.</u></p> <p>And Any consequential amendments required as a result of the relief sought.</p>	Reject
FS23.231	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto's Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the</p>	Accept



Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
				PDP review.	
42.25	Ventus Energy	Support with amendment	Overview: Landscapes of high amenity value	Amend the Overview of the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter as follows:  Landscapes of high amenity value ... These landscapes are managed to maintain and enhance their rural character and naturalness while allowing for appropriate development, particularly the ongoing use of rural land for agricultural, pastoral, <del>and</del> horticultural activities, <u>whilst also providing for key infrastructure activities, such as wind farms, reliant on locating within the rural zones.</u>	Reject
FS10.12	King Country Energy	Support		Allow	Reject
FS23.170	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Oppose where the <b>activity impacts sites and areas of significance to Māori</b> and significant archaeological sites, iwi, hapu and mana whenua cultural values must be provided for	Accept
47.128	Forest and Bird	Support with amendment	Overview	Amend the overview of the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter to include an explanation of how this chapter gives effect to Policy 15 of the NZCPS. And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.	Accept
FS05.100	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Reject
43.21	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Support	NFL-O1	Retain NFL-O1 as notified.	Accept
38.71	Te Tokanganui- a-noho Whare (TTRMC)	Support	NFL-O2	Retain NFL-O2 as notified.	Accept
FS20.100	Sheryl Paekau	Support		I seek that the whole of all submissions provided by Te Kohanganui Whare be allowed and to take into account my support in part when applied to limiting numbers of dwellings on Maaori land.	Accept
50.21	Te Nehenehenui	Support	NFL-O2. NFL-P2. NFL-P5.4. Restricted discretionary criteria	Retain the following provisions in the natural features and landscapes chapter: NFL-O2. NFL-P2. NFL-P5.4.  Retain the restricted discretionary criteria relating to effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and	Accept in part

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
			relating to effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site <b>and any wāhi</b> tapu or other taonga affected by the activity.	any <b>wāhi</b> tapu or other taonga affected by the activity.	
FS20.219	Sheryl Paekau	Support		I seek that the whole of all submissions provided by Te Nehenehenui Trust be allowed and to take into account my support in part when applied to limiting numbers of dwellings on Maaori land	Accept in part
33.66	King Country Energy	Support	NFL-O4	Retain NFL-O4.	Accept
43.24	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Support	NFL-O4	Retain NFL-O4 as notified.	Accept
FS23.182	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.</p>	Reject
42.26	Ventus Energy	Support with amendment	NEW	<p>Add a new objective or policy in the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter as follows:</p> <p><u>Recognise that some landscapes of high amenity value provide excellent sites for renewable energy activities such as wind farms and the positive benefits of such activities shall be considered in determining their effects upon such sites.</u></p>	Accept
FS10.13	King Country Energy	Support		Allow	Accept

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
FS23.171	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<b>Oppose where the activity impacts sites and areas of significance to Māori</b> and significant archaeological sites, iwi, hapu and mana whenua cultural values must be provided for	Reject
09.28	Chorus New Zealand Limited, Connexa Limited, SparkNew Zealand Trading Limited and Vodafone New Zealand Limited	Oppose	NFL-P1	Amend Policy NFL-P1 as follows: ..... 2. Ensuring the location, scale, materials, design, colour and grouping of buildings, <del>and structures and infrastructure</del> avoid adverse effects on the values and character of outstanding natural features and landscapes; and ..... <u>11. Network Utilities are managed in accordance with Policies NU-P11 and NU-P12.</u>	Accept
FS03.10	Department of Conservation (DoC)	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS23.50	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b>  Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, the taiao and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the review.	Reject
FS30.03	Transpower New Zealand Ltd (Transpower)	Support		Allow	Accept
43.22	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose with amendment	NFL-P1	Amend NFL-P1 as follows: ... 8. <u>Avoiding in the first instance, and where avoidance is not practicable, remedying and mitigating</u> the adverse effects ... ... 10. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established <del>farming</del> activities; <u>and</u>  <u>Providing for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and industry, and for those activities associated with significant mineral resources.</u>	Reject
FS03.81	DoC	Oppose		Disallow	Accept

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
FS10.15	King Country Energy	Support		Allow	Reject
FS26.09	Waikato Regional Council (WRC)	Oppose		This submission point is not adopted.	Accept
FS17.02	NZ Speleological Society	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
FS23.180	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.</p>	Accept
31.64	Transpower	Amend	Chapter and NFL-P1, P3 and P4	Amend Chapter 28 - Natural Features and Landscapes to recognise the National Grid, specifically NFL-P1 and NFL-P3 to give effect to the NPSET, in the event that the specific Chapter 19 National Grid policies do not prevail. And Any consequential amendments.	Accept in part
10.97	WRC	Amend	NFL-P1.10	Amend the wording to: <b>“10. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established farming activities, <u>as long as the associated adverse effects in outstanding natural features and landscapes are avoided</u>”</b> or words to a similar effect.	Reject
FS03.41	DoC	Support		Allow	Reject
38.72	TTRMC	Support	NFL-P2	Retain NFL-P2 as notified.	Accept
FS20.101	Sheryl Paekau	Support		I seek that the whole of all submissions provided by Te Kohanganui Whare be allowed and to take into account my support in part when applied to limiting numbers of dwellings on Maaori land.	Accept
43.23	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Support with amendment	NFL-P3	<p>Amend NFL-P3 as follows:</p> <p>...</p> <p>1 Providing thresholds to allow limited earthworks and vegetation removal, particularly where this is part of the continued operation of the continued operation of lawfully <del>farming</del> established activities; and</p>	Reject

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
				2 Ensuring buildings and structures are setback from riparian and coastal margins and do not dominate ridgelines or coastal headlands, <u>while recognising the functional, locational and operational needs of particular activities.</u>	
FS03.82	DoC	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
FS23.181	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.</p>	Accept
33.67	King Country Energy	Support with amendment	NFL-P4	<p>Amend NFL-P4.7 as follows:</p> <p>7. Providing for the continued operation, maintenance and repair <u>and upgrading</u> of lawfully established renewable electricity generation activities.</p>	Accept in part
FS23.147	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Te Nehenehenui have stated support for other submitters submission points that may conflict with several aspects of this submission, therefore TNN oppose the points of this submission that are not aligned to our Taiao and cultural values, or those we have noted support for	Reject
43.25	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose with amendment	NFL-P4	<p>Amend NFL-P4 as follows:</p> <p>...</p> <p>6 Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established <del>farming</del> activities; and ...</p> <p>7. <u>renewable electricity generation activities; and</u></p> <p>8. <u>Providing for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and industry, and for those activities associated with significant mineral resources.</u></p>	Accept
FS03.83	DoC	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS10.16	King Country Energy	Support		Allow	Accept

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
FS17.03	NZ Speleological Society	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS23.183	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto's Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.</p>	Reject
47.129	Forest and Bird	Support with amendment	NFL-P4	<p>Amend policy NFL-P4 as follows:</p> <p>4. Add Sched 7</p> <p>5. <del>Minimising</del> <u>Avoiding</u> the removal of indigenous vegetation <del>as far as practicable.</del></p> <p>6. <u>Avoiding in the first instance or minimising-remedying or mitigating adverse effects on natural character from</u> the removal of indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>And</p> <p>Make consequential amendments to NFL-P4 to replace the term <b>"minimise"</b> with <b>"avoid, remedy or mitigate."</b></p> <p>And</p> <p>Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.</p>	Reject
FS08.13	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
FS10.53	King Country Energy	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
FS12.11	Manulife Forest Management (NZ) Ltd	Oppose		Reject submission to include new principles and/or use the principles as worded in the NPS IB.	Accept
FS19.88	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept
FS22.16	Chorus New Zealand Limited, Connexa Limited, SparkNew Zealand Trading Limited and	Oppose		Disallow the submission	Accept

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
	Vodafone New Zealand Limited				
10.98	WRC	Amend	NFL-P4.5	Amend the wording to: <del>"Minimising</del> <b>"Ensuring</b> the removal of indigenous vegetation <del>as far as practicable."</del>	Reject
FS03.42	DoC	Support		Allow	Reject
FS08.21	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
FS30.08	Transpower	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
10.99	WRC	Amend	NFL-P4.6	Amend the wording to: <del>"Ensuring that the effects of any activities which could compromise the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value are minimised</del> <b>"Ensuring</b> <del>avoided."</del>	Reject
FS03.43	DoC	Support		Allow	Reject
FS08.22	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
43.40	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Support with amendment	Moved from ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter (ECO-P13)	Add a new clause to ECO-P13 as follows:  <u>8. The need for the activity to provide for nationally or regionally significant industry, infrastructure or activities associated with significant mineral resources.</u>	Accept in part
FS03.91	DoC	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS10.18	King Country Energy	Support		Allow	Accept in part
FS17.08	NZ Speleological Society	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS22.03	Chorus New Zealand Limited, Connexa Limited, Spark New Zealand Trading Limited and	Oppose		Disallow the submission	Reject

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
	Vodafone New Zealand Limited				
FS23.191	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its people <b>and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.</p>	Reject
43.26	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose with amendment	NFL-P5	<p>Amend NFL-P5 as follows:</p> <p>...</p> <p><u>3. Ensuring that the effects of Avoiding</u>—any activity, particularly vegetation clearance and large-scale earthworks including quarrying activities, where these will adversely affect the values of the karst systems or features <u>are avoided in the first instance, and where this is not practicable, remedied or mitigated</u>; and</p> <p>4. <u>Ensuring developments</u> in locations that are of significance to mana whenua <u>appropriately assess adverse effects and any resulting development is managed in a way that protects (to the extent warranted by the circumstances) the values of the site</u>;</p> <p>...</p> <p>7. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established <u>farming activities</u>; and</p> <p>8. <u>Providing for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and industry, and for those activities associated with significant mineral resources, where the effects of these activities do not compromise the values of the karst overlay.</u></p>	Accept in part
FS03.84	DoC	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS26.10	WRC	Oppose		This submission point is not adopted.	Reject
FS17.04	NZ Speleological Society	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS23.184	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature</p>	Reject



Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
				and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.	
38.73	TTRMC	Support	NFL-P5.4	Retain NFL-P5.4 as notified.	Reject
FS20.102	Sheryl Paekau	Support		I seek that the whole of all submissions provided by Te Kohanganui Whare be allowed and to take into account my support in part when applied to limiting numbers of dwellings on Maaori land.	Reject
10.100	WRC	Oppose	NFL-P5.7	Amend the wording to: <b>"7. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established farming activities, as long as adverse effects of farming activities on the values of the karst overlay are avoided."</b>	Reject
FS03.44	DoC	Support		Allow	Accept
46.52	Federated Farmers	Support with amendment	Rules	Add to the Natural features and landscapes chapter a rule that allows for gardening, cultivation, and disturbance of land for the installation of fence posts as permitted activities. And Any consequential amendments required as a result of the relief sought.	Accept in part
FS03.95	DoC	Oppose in part		Disallow	Reject
FS23.232	Te Nehenehenui	Support in part		Support in part due to having regard for iwi and manawhenua cultural values where this may apply	Accept in part
47.130	Forest and Bird	Support with amendment	Rules general	Amend rules in the Natural Features and Landscapes chapter to ensure that adverse effects to be avoided under Policy 15 of the NZCPS are not caused through permitted activities. And Make all permitted rules in Outstanding areas RDIS or reduce the scale of activities by at least half of what is set out in proposed rules. And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.	Reject
FS05.101	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Accept
FS19.89	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept
10.101	WRC	Oppose	NFL-R2, NFL-R2 and NFL-R4	Reconsider and amend the activity status for activities regulated by this rule to a more stringent category.	Reject

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
FS03.45	DoC	Support		Allow	Reject
42.27	Ventus Energy	Support with amendment	NFL-R4	Amend NFL-R4 as follows:  Any building <u>or structure</u> that is greater than 8 m in height and/or greater than 300 m <sup>2</sup> in size.	Accept
FS23.172	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<b>Oppose where the activity impacts sites and areas of significance to Māori</b> and significant archaeological sites, iwi, hapu and mana whenua cultural values must be provided for	Reject
18.15	Auckland Waikato Fish and Game (AWFG)	Seek amendment	NFL-R8	Seek an amendment for conservation activities or otherwise bring the area allowed for earthworks to 500m <sup>2</sup> in line with the NES-F.	Reject
FS19.107	PF Olsen	Support		Allow submission points	Reject
FS23.64	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto's Environmental Management Plan.</b>  Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, the taiao and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the review.	Accept
19.14	PF Olsen	Oppose	NFL – R8	Delete NFL-R8. Or Amend NFL-R8 to increase the permitted volumes of earthworks that would enable plantation forestry earthworks (minimum of 2000 m <sup>3</sup> ). And Delete indigenous vegetation from the matters of discretion for NFL-R8.	Reject
FS23.69	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto's Environmental Management Plan.</b>  Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, the taiao and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the review.	Accept

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
30.15	New Zealand Forest Managers (NZFM)	Support with amendment	NFL-R8	Amend NFL-R8 to increase the permitted activity volumes.	Reject
FS19.15	PF Olsen	Support		Allow submission point	Accept
FS23.109	Te Nehenehenui	Not stated		Oppose and support in part where the submission points align to the submissions supported by TNN	Accept
19.15	PF Olsen	Oppose	NFL-R13	Delete NFL-R13. Or Amend NFL-R13 to permit plantation forest harvesting where the plantation forest existed prior to the date of the Proposed Waitomo District Plan.	Reject
FS23.70	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b>  Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, the taiao and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the review.	Accept
47.131	Forest and Bird	Oppose	NFL-R13	Amend NFL-R13 so that afforestation is a PR activity in Outstanding natural features and NC in Outstanding landscapes.  And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.	Reject
FS05.102	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Accept
FS19.90	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept
47.132	Forest and Bird	Support with amendment	NFL-R14	Amend NFL-R14 to add a condition that this activity is not in the coastal environment and make it prohibited.  And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.	Reject
FS05.103	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Accept
FS19.91	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
10.102	WRC	Oppose	NFL-R15	Reduce the proposed limit and apply a timeframe to this provision. Develop and include provisions for vegetation removal in outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes within the coastal environment, ensuring that these provisions align with the 'avoid' policies from the NZCPS.	Reject
FS03.46	DoC	Support		Allow	Reject
FS08.23	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
47.133	Forest and Bird	Oppose	NFL-R15	Delete NFL-R15. And  Add a reference in the Natural Features and Landscape chapter to require compliance with rules in the ECO chapter as sought elsewhere in the submission.  And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.	Reject
FS05.104	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Accept
FS08.14	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Oppose		Disallow	Accept
FS19.92	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept
43.27	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Support with amendment	NFL-R16	Amend NFL-R16 as follows:  Karst Overlay – <del>NC-DIS</del> : Rural production zone PR: All other zones	Accept in part
FS03.85	DoC	Support in part		Allow in part	Accept in part
FS26.11	WRC	Oppose		This submission point is not adopted.	Reject
FS17.05	NZ Speleological Society	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
FS23.185	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto's Environmental Management Plan.  Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to	Reject

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
				negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.	
33.68	King Country Energy	Oppose	NFL-R17	<p>Amend NFL-R17 as follows:</p> <p>Any earthworks or clearance of vegetation (other than plant pest species, wilding pines, or when required in emergency situations such as the recovery of stock) within a 20 m radius of an entry or opening into any cave or sinkhole, <u>except where required for the continued operation, maintenance or minor upgrading of lawfully established renewable electricity generation activities.</u></p> <p>Activity Status: <del>NC-DIS</del>  Where: Outstanding Natural Features, Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Karst Overlay, <u>and Landscapes of High Amenity Value.</u></p> <p><del>Activity Status: DIS</del>  <del>Landscapes of High Amenity Value.</del></p>	Accept in part
FS03.73	DoC	Oppose		Disallow	Accept in part
FS23.148	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		Te Nehenehenui have stated support for other submitters submission points that may conflict with several aspects of this submission, therefore TNN oppose the points of this submission that are not aligned to our Taiao and cultural values, or those we have noted support for	Accept in part
43.28	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Support with amendment	NRL-R17	<p>Amend NFL-R17 as follows:</p> <p>Karst Overlay - <del>NC-DIS</del>: <u>Rural production zone PR: All other zones</u></p>	Accept in part
FS03.86	DoC	Support in part		Allow in part	Accept in part
FS26.12	WRC	Oppose		This submission point is not adopted.	Accept in part
FS17.06	NZ Speleological Society	Oppose		Amendment- Oppose New Rule- Oppose We understand the complexities of karst landscapes present in these zones, and that there can be a case for fencing and vegetation clearance within 20m of a cave or 3 sinkhole, but there are also some that would be best protected with a greater than 20m radius. This requires an assessment of catchment size, slope gradient, vegetation and soil structure. Without the development of these detailed	Accept in part

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
				assessment criteria we oppose the proposed new rule.	
FS23.186	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto's Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.</p>	Accept in part
47.134	Forest and Bird	Support with amendment	NFL-R17	<p>Add a note to NFL-R17 under the rule that rules in the ECO chapter also apply to vegetation clearance.</p> <p>And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.</p>	Accept
FS19.93	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Reject
43.30	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	Support	NFL-R18	Retain NFL-R18 as notified.	Accept
FS03.87	DoC	Oppose		Disallow	Reject
47.135	Forest and Bird	Oppose	NFL-R19	<p>Amend NFL-R19 so that the activities are not permitted in the coastal environment.</p> <p>And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.</p>	Reject
FS05.105	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Accept
FS19.94	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept
10.103	WRC	Oppose	NFL-R19, NFL-R20 and NFL-R21	Amend these standards so that the required setback from the coastal marine area to a minimum of 30m, to be consistent with clause 68(4)(c) the NES for plantation forestry.	Reject
FS03.47	DoC	Support		Allow	Reject

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
30.16	NZFM	Oppose	NFL-R20	Delete from NFL-R20 the reference to indigenous plantation forestry (submission point 3) so that rule applies to all plantation forestry.	Accept
FS19.16	PF Olsen	Support		Allow submission point	Accept
FS23.110	Te Nehenehenui	Not stated		Oppose and support in part where the submission points align to the submissions supported by TNN	Reject
47.136	Forest and Bird	Oppose	NFL-R20	<p>Amend NFL-R20 so that afforestation is a PR activity in Outstanding natural features and NC in Outstanding landscapes.</p> <p>And</p> <p>Amend the required setback from the coastal marine area to 50m from the CMA to provide more stringent protection of the values of the coastal environment than would otherwise occur under clause 68(4)(c) the NES for Plantation Forestry.</p> <p>And</p> <p>Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.</p>	Reject
FS05.106	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Accept
FS19.95	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept
19.16	PF Olsen	Oppose	NFL-R20	<p>Delete NFL-R20(3).</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Amend NFL-R20 (1) and (2) to provide equity between the limits on plantation forest afforestation and indigenous vegetation afforestation.</p>	Accept
FS23.71	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto’s Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, the taiao and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the review.</p>	Reject
19.17	PF Olsen	Oppose	NFL-R21	<p>Delete the 2 ha limit for plantation forest harvesting for existing plantation forest as at the date of the proposed plan from NFL-R21.</p> <p>And</p> <p>Delete the replanting performance standard from NFL-R21. Or amend the requirement in NFL-R21 for replanting form 12 months to 18 months;</p>	Reject

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
				<p>And Delete the matters of discretion (f) and (i) from NFL-R21. And Delete matters of discretion NFL-R21(g): And Review matters of discretion NFL-R21 (a), (h) and (k) and delete overlap and repetition; And Change the activity status for NFL-R21 where non-compliance is not achieved from restricted discretionary to controlled (or the equivalent in the NBE bill/act).</p>	
30.17	NZFM	Oppose with amendment	NFL-R21	Amend NFL-R21 by deleting the 2ha restriction for existing plantation forests.	Reject
FS19.17	PF Olsen	Support		Allow submission point	Reject
FS23.111	Te Nehenehenui	Not stated		Oppose and support in part where the submission points align to the submissions supported by TNN	Accept
47.137	Forest and Bird	Oppose with amendment	NFL-R21	<p>Amend NFL-R21 to Add a condition so that replanting increases the setback from the CMA and waterbodies to at least 30 and that wildings are controlled between the forest and CMA/waterbodies.</p> <p>And Any consequential changes or alternative relief to achieve the relief sought.</p>	Reject
FS05.107	Federated Farmers	Oppose		Decline the relief sought	Accept
FS19.96	PF Olsen	Oppose		Disallow submission point	Accept
21.10	New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)	Amend	NEW RULE	<p>Add a new permitted activity rule for temporary buildings and structures associated with temporary military training activities within outstanding natural features, outstanding natural landscapes, landscapes of high amenity value and the karst overlay:</p> <p><u>NH- RX: Structures associated with Temporary Military Training Activities</u></p> <p><u>Activity status: PER Where:</u></p> <p><u>1. The structure is in place for a maximum period of 31 consecutive days (excluding set up and pack down activities).</u></p> <p><u>No permanent structures are constructed (unless the building or structure and its use comply with all other permitted activity rules).</u></p>	Accept in part



Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
43.29	Graymont (NZ) Ltd	New	NEW RULE	<p>Add a new rule in the Natural features and landscapes chapter as follows:</p> <p><u>Fencing to protect caves and sinkholes The rules apply to all zones.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Any fencing and associated earthworks and weed removal or indigenous planting at a 20 m radius (or greater) of an entry or opening to a cave or sinkhole to protect an entry or opening into any cave or sinkhole – PER</u></li> <li><u>Any fencing and associated earthworks and weed removal or indigenous planting within a 20 m radius of an entry or opening to a cave or sinkhole to protect an entry or opening into any cave or sinkhole – CONTROLLED</u></li> </ol>	Accept in part
FS23.187	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<p>Te Nehenehenui seeks to enhance the protection and maintenance of its <b>people and taonga within the taiao as guided by Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – Maniapoto's Environmental Management Plan.</b></p> <p>Where submission points do not align with this, or have the potential to negatively impact on iwi, hapu, whanau cultural values, sites, and all taonga within TNN area of interest, TNN opposes submission points of this nature and requests that Waitomo District Council consider this when finalising the PDP review.</p>	Accept in part
06.03	Tim Stokes	Amend	Map 4 Moved from ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter	Requests amendment to the northern boundary of the limestone country landscape boundary at northern edge of R16UP046.	Reject
FS05.25	Federated Farmers	Support		Grant the relief sought	Reject
FS23.17	Te Nehenehenui	Delete		Support/oppose on the provision does not conflict with manawhenua, iwi hapu, cultural values or other submission points TNN supports	Accept
10.167	WRC	Amend	General comment ONF Layer	Include the Hikurangi Falls ONF14 site in the PWDP Outstanding Natural Features (ONF) Layer.	Accept
10.159	WRC	Oppose	SCHED6	<p>Overlay the scheduled plan layers with the following GIS layers to ensure that there are no outstanding natural features missed by the PWDP:</p> <p>New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory, Outstanding Natural Features: <a href="https://naturemaps.nz/maps/#/viewer/openlayers/484">https://naturemaps.nz/maps/#/viewer/openlayers/484</a>.</p>	Reject

Submission no	Submitter	Support / in part / oppose	Plan provision	Relief sought	Recommendation
42.30	Ventus Energy	Oppose	Outstanding Natural Landscapes	Amend all maps to more accurately detail the location of areas of Outstanding Natural Landscape and Character.	Reject
FS03.79	Director-General of Conservation	Support in part		Allow	Reject
FS23.175	Te Nehenehenui	Oppose		<b>Oppose where the activity impacts sites and areas of significance to Māori</b> and significant archaeological sites, iwi, hapu and mana whenua cultural values must be provided for	Accept
49.02	Taharoa Ironsands Ltd	Support	District wide overlays and ONL and LHAV	TIL seeks the following relief: (i) Retain the extent of the Outstanding Natural Landscape and Landscape of High Amenity Value notations on Map 51 as they relate to the Taharoa area. Any alternative and/or consequential amendments to the same effect as the primary relief sought above.	Accept

## 7. Appendix 2 – Decisions Version of the Chapter

# Natural features and landscapes | Ngā tirohanga whenua

## Overview

This chapter contains the provisions relating to outstanding natural landscapes, outstanding natural features, landscapes of high amenity value and the karst overlay. The Act requires the plan to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes in the district from adverse effects, including cumulative effects arising from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Where natural features and landscapes are located in the coastal environment, this chapter gives effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 and the Waikato Regional Policy Statement by identifying these areas and providing policy direction and matters of discretion.

Landscapes, places and features can be of historical, cultural and spiritual significance to mana whenua. For mana whenua, it is critical to manage and protect these resources in order to fulfil the obligation of kaitiakitanga or guardianship. Wider landscape settings symbolise life and the narratives of the local tribal guardians, as well as providing a tangible connection to ancestors, whenua and significant historical events. Landmarks and discrete features can carry deep levels of meaning and association. These settings are valued for their holistic connection to the local tribal custodians as a collective, through the generations.

It is the view of mana whenua that specific values of significance and associative narratives should not be recorded in respect of the landscapes and features identified in this chapter. Mana whenua representatives acknowledge the contemporary relationships that exists between local tribal custodians and these landscapes and features. This includes valuing customary resources and appreciating these areas for their naturalness, solitude and recreational opportunities. However, the role and obligation of kaitiakitanga precludes sharing the symbolism, values and significance of these sites. The narratives are sacred representations of these natural resources and therefore are taonga because they express through the physical manifestation of a place, the relationship of the local tribal custodians with the intangible.

### Outstanding natural landscapes

Landscapes are considered outstanding when they meet assessment criteria associated with factors including aesthetic values, expressiveness and legibility, transient and cultural values, historical association and natural science factors. Both the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and the Manawatū Whanganui One Plan contain assessment criteria and guidance which have been used to identify the outstanding natural landscapes that are protected by the provisions in this plan. Approximately 21% or around 73,000 hectares of the district is identified as an outstanding natural landscape. Of this area, 51% is held as Department of Conservation estate, QEII covenant or Nga Whenua Rahui. Where the land is held in private ownership, the majority is identified as a significant natural area. Only 11% of the land identified as part of an outstanding natural landscape is developed or farmed. Of particular note are the rugged, peaked landforms of the northern Herangi range

which are considered to be an outstanding natural landscape at both a regional and a district scale. The five outstanding natural landscapes are:

- Herangi-Pomarangai
- Northern Coastline
- Western Coast
- Rock Peak
- Mokau Hills

Refer to [SCHED7](#) for the schedule of outstanding natural landscapes.

## Outstanding natural features

The district plan is required to identify outstanding natural features and avoid in the first instance, any adverse effects of activities that might compromise their unique values and characteristics. 76 sites or features that contribute to the understanding of geology, are rare or unusual, or meet other abiotic and biotic criteria that make them significant are included for protection in this plan. Approximately 2% or around 4,300 hectares of the district is identified as being an outstanding natural feature. There are six categories of outstanding natural features and provisions apply according to their type. The majority of outstanding natural features are contained or small features such as waterfalls, natural bridges, bluffs, tors, gorges, lakes, sandspits and areas of geological importance. Categories A and F are larger areas with characteristics similar to the outstanding natural landscapes:

- A = Large landforms (non-coastal).
- B = Smaller more fragile landforms.
- C = Dynamic landforms and features in the coastal zone.
- D = Robust exposures of geological material (non-coastal).
- E = Fragile exposures of geological material (mostly in coastal zone).
- F = Caves.

Refer to [SCHED8](#) for the schedule of outstanding natural features

## Landscapes of high amenity value

Landscapes of high amenity value are identified in the part of the district that is within the Waikato region. The Waikato Regional Policy Statement requires district plans to identify and appropriately recognise the qualities and characteristics of areas of amenity value. These landscapes are managed to maintain and enhance their rural character and naturalness while allowing for appropriate development, particularly the ongoing use of rural land for agricultural, pastoral and horticultural activities. Consequently, a working pastoral landscape is envisaged for these areas and the provisions heavily rely on the underlying general rural zone to manage the effects of non-farming activities including rural industry, quarrying activities and tourism. Approximately 23% or around 82,000 hectares comprise the four landscapes of high amenity value in the district:

- Awakino gorge
- Limestone country
- Rangitoto range and the Waipa valley
- Kawhia Harbour

Refer to [SCHED9](#) for the schedule of landscapes of high amenity value.

### The karst overlay

The karst overlay contains subterranean caves and catchment areas of high geomorphological and ecological diversity. The majority of these cave systems were identified and protected through provisions in the previous district plan. This plan seeks to manage the main impacts on karst ecosystems which are associated with general vegetation clearance which can impact the hydrology of cave systems and localised vegetation clearance around karst features which can change the environmental conditions in caves with resulting changes to biota. Commercial forestry can cause significant sediment flows to subterranean habitats during harvesting and quarrying activities, dumping of waste or filling of cave entrances, tomos and dolines can also have a serious detrimental effect on karst ecosystems. 5 catchment systems and 31 cave systems comprising approximately 5% or around 17,000 hectares of the district are identified in the karst overlay.

Refer to [SCHED12](#) for the karst overlay schedule.

## Objectives and Policies - Outstanding natural features and landscapes

*Refer also to the relevant objectives and policies in Part 2 District - Wide Matters*

- NFL-O1. The values and character of the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes identified in [SCHED7](#) and [SCHED8](#) are recognised and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- NFL-O2. Ensure that the cultural and spiritual relationships of Māori with outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes are appropriately considered as part of subdivision, use and development activities.
- NFL-O3. Provide for identified activities assessed in this plan as appropriate within outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes.
- NFL-P1. Ensure the values and character of the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:
  - 1. Avoiding adverse effects which compromise the values and character of outstanding natural features and landscapes; and
  - 2. Ensuring the location, scale, materials, design, colour and grouping of buildings and structures avoid adverse effects on the values and character of outstanding natural features and landscapes; and
  - 3. Ensuring earthworks integrate with the existing landform to preserve the values and character of outstanding natural features and landscapes; and
  - 4. Avoiding any activity, particularly earthworks, harvesting of commercial forestry and structures, where this will adversely affect caves and fragile outstanding natural features identified in [SCHED8](#); and

5. Ensuring developments in locations that are of significance to mana whenua appropriately assess those effects and any resulting development is managed in a way that protects the values of the site; and
6. Avoiding in the first instance or minimising the removal of indigenous vegetation; and
7. Ensuring any earthworks or vegetation removal activities focus on protecting existing indigenous vegetation in the first instance, minimising clearance in the second instance and undertaking any measures necessary to rehabilitate the land including restoration and re-planting as a final resort; and
8. Avoiding the adverse effects of mineral extraction activities in outstanding natural landscapes; and
9. Providing for commercial forestry only where there is a clear and on-going land stability benefit and the ensuing operations avoid detracting from the values and character of outstanding natural features and landscapes; and
10. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established farming activities; and
11. Network utilities are managed in accordance with NU-P12.

NFL-P2. Provide flexibility when considering the development of land returned under Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlements **and multiple owned Māori land** located in outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes by:

1. Evaluating the extent to which the development enables the relationship of mana whenua with their ancestral lands and the exercise of kaitiakitanga; and
2. Evaluating the extent to which positive economic, social and cultural benefits are achieved for mana whenua now and into the future; and
3. Taking into account the requirement to avoid adverse effects on the values and character of outstanding natural features and landscapes.

NFL-P3. Provide for the appropriate use of natural resources, including land and water, within outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes by:

1. Providing thresholds to allow limited earthworks and vegetation removal, particularly where this is part of the continued operation of lawfully farming established activities; and
2. Ensuring buildings and structures are setback from riparian and coastal margins and do not dominate ridgelines or coastal headlands.

## Objective and Policies - Landscapes of high amenity value

*Refer also to the relevant objectives and policies in Part 2 District - Wide Matters*

- NFL-O4. Recognise, maintain, and where practicable, enhance the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value identified in [SCHED9](#), including those values associated with working agricultural, pastoral and horticultural landscapes.
- NFL-P4. Maintain and where practicable, enhance the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value during subdivision, land use and development by:
1. Ensuring that the effects of any activity which could compromise the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value are minimised; and
  2. Ensuring that buildings, structures and infrastructure are integrated into landscapes of high amenity value to minimise, to the maximum extent practicable, any visual impacts; and
  3. Managing the adverse effects of earthworks for buildings, driveways, new tracks and farm quarries through appropriate subdivision and development design; and
  4. Ensuring developments in locations that are of significance to mana whenua appropriately assess those effects and any resulting development is managed in a way that protects the values of the site; and
  5. Minimising the removal of indigenous vegetation as far as practicable; and
  6. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established farming activities.
- NFL-P5. Maintain and where practicable, enhance the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value, while providing for:
1. The continued operation, maintenance and repair and minor upgrading of lawfully established renewable electricity generation activities; and
  2. Nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and industry, and for those activities associated with significant mineral resources; and
  3. The recognition of the positive benefits of new renewable electricity generation activities.

## Objective and Policy - The karst overlay

*Refer also to the relevant objectives and policies in Part 2 District - Wide Matters*

- NFL-O5. Ensure the unique geomorphological, hydrological and ecological values of the karst overlay identified in [SCHED12](#) are recognised and protected.



- NFL-P6. Recognise, protect, and where practicable, enhance the values of the karst overlay by:
1. Ensuring that the effects of any activity which could compromise the values of the karst overlay are avoided in the first instance, and where this is not practicable, minimised; and
  2. Managing the adverse effects of earthworks through appropriate development design, mitigation measures and rehabilitation; and
  3. Avoiding as far as practicable, any activity, particularly vegetation clearance and large-scale earthworks including quarrying activities, where these will adversely affect the values of the karst systems or features; and
  4. Avoiding developments in locations that are of significance to mana whenua to the maximum extent practicable; and
  5. Minimising the removal of indigenous vegetation; and
  6. Providing for commercial forestry only where there is a clear and on-going land stability benefit and the ensuing operations do not significantly detract from the values of the karst overlay; and
  7. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established activities; and
  8. Providing for the removal of non-significant indigenous vegetation in the rural production zone where the effects of clearance do not adversely affect the values of the karst systems or features.

## Rules

The rules that apply to activities in natural features and landscapes are contained in the tables listed below. To undertake any activity, it must comply with the rules listed in:

- NFL - Table 1 – Activities Rules; and
- NFL - Table 2 – Performance Standards; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 2 District-wide matters; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 3 Area Specific matters.

Where an activity breaches more than one rule, the most restrictive status shall apply to the activity.

[Refer to Part 1 - How the Plan Works](#) for an explanation of how to use this plan, including activity status abbreviations.

*Note: Where an activity is not provided for in this table, see the applicable provisions in the underlying zone or district wide chapter.*

## Buildings

	The rules apply to all zones	The rules apply to all zones except Te Maika precinct (PREC7)	The rules apply to all zones except the rural production zone & Aria settlement zone	
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R1.	Any <b>building</b> that is less than or equal to 5 m in height and/or less than or equal to 30 m <sup>2</sup> in size.			
	PER: Category F NC: Category A,B,C,D,E	PER	PER	N/A see zone rules
NFL-R2.	Any <b>building</b> that is less than or equal to 5 m in height and/or greater than 30 m <sup>2</sup> but less than or equal to 100 m <sup>2</sup> in size.			
	RDIS: Category F PR: Category A,B,C,D,E	RDIS	PER	N/A see zone rules
	<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Whether the location and scale of the building detracts from the outstanding natural feature or a landscape; and</li> <li>(b) Whether the grouping of buildings detracts from the outstanding natural feature or the landscape; and</li> <li>(c) The extent to which the building extends above a ridgeline or coastal headland or dominates an outstanding natural feature; and</li> <li>(d) Whether the colour and materials integrate the building into the wider landscape; and</li> <li>(e) Whether the building uses low reflectivity glass and building form to minimise reflectivity; and</li> <li>(f) Whether the building is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(g) The location, timing of construction, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities; and</li> <li>(h) Any measures necessary to rehabilitate the land following the completion of the activity; and</li> <li>(i) The protection of existing vegetation and/or mitigation/enhancement planting to assist the visual integration of built form; and</li> <li>(j) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(k) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of the building on the outstanding natural feature or landscape.</li> </ul>			

	The rules apply to all zones	The rules apply to all zones except Te Maika precinct (PREC7)	The rules apply to all zones except the rural production zone & Aria settlement zone	
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R3.	Any <b>building</b> that is greater than 5 m but less than or equal to 8 m in height and/or greater than 100 m <sup>2</sup> but less than or equal to 300 m <sup>2</sup> in size.			
	DIS: Category F PR: Category A,B,C,D,E	DIS	PER	N/A see zone rules
NFL-R4.	Any <b>building</b> or <b>structure</b> that is greater than 8 m in height and/or greater than 300 m <sup>2</sup> in size.			
	NC: Category F PR: Category A,B,C,D,E	DIS	RDIS	N/A see zone rules
	<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Whether the location and scale of the building detracts from the landscape; and</li> <li>(b) The extent to which the building extends above a ridgeline or coastal headland; and</li> <li>(c) Whether the colour and materials integrate the building into the wider landscape; and</li> <li>(d) Whether the building uses low reflectivity glass and building form to minimise reflectivity; and</li> <li>(e) Whether the building is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(f) Whether the grouping of buildings detracts from the landscape; and</li> <li>(g) The location, timing of construction, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities; and</li> <li>(h) Any measures necessary to rehabilitate the land following the completion of the activity; and</li> <li>(i) The protection of existing vegetation and/or mitigation/enhancement planting to assist the visual integration of built form; and</li> <li>(j) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(k) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of the building on the landscape or coastal environment.</li> </ul>			
NFL-R5.	Any <b>building</b> that is sited on a <b>building platform</b> approved as part of a <b>subdivision</b> consent issued before 20 October 2022			
	PER	PER	PER	PER
Note: All buildings and structures, must also comply with NATC-R2, CEH-R1 and CEH-R2.				

## Tanks & silos

	The rules apply to all zones	The rules apply to all zones except Te Maika precinct (PREC7)	The rules apply to all zones except the rural production zone & Aria settlement zone	
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R6.	Any tank or silo that is less than or equal to 3.2 m in height and/or has a capacity less than or equal to 50,000 litres or less			
	PER: Category A,F  NC: Category B,C,D,E	PER	N/A see zone rules	N/A see zone rules
NFL-R7.	Any tank or silo that is greater than 3.2 m in height and/or has a capacity greater than 50,000 litres.			
	RDIS: Category A,F  NC: Category B,C,D,E	RDIS	N/A see zone rules	N/A see zone rules
	<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <p>(a) The location, scale, materials and colour of the tank or silo and whether these factors detract from the outstanding natural feature or the landscape; and</p> <p>(b) The extent to which the structure extends above a ridgeline or coastal headland or dominates an outstanding natural feature or the landscape; and</p> <p>(c) Whether the structure is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</p> <p>(d) The protection of existing vegetation and/or mitigation/enhancement planting to assist the visual integration; and</p> <p>(e) The location, timing of construction, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities; and</p> <p>(f) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of the activity on the outstanding natural feature or the landscape.</p>			
Note: All buildings and structures, must also comply with NATC-R2, CEH-R1 and CEH-R2.				

## Earthworks

The rules apply to all zones			The rules apply to all zones except the rural production zone	
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R8.	<b>Earthworks</b>			
	PER: Where less than or equal to 100 m <sup>3</sup> and/or no greater than 1 m in depth in Category A,C,D,F. Applies per holding per calendar year  NC: Category B,E	PER: Where less than or equal to 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year	PER: Where less than or equal to 500 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year (general rural & natural open space zones only)  Otherwise see the <a href="#">earthworks chapter</a>	PER: Where less than or equal to 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year
	NC: Where greater than 100 m <sup>3</sup> and/or greater than 1m in depth in Category A,C,D,F. Applies per holding per calendar year	RDIS: Where greater than 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year	RDIS: Where greater than 500 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year (general rural & natural open space zones)	RDIS: Where greater than 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year
	<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Whether the location and scale of the earthworks detracts from the landscape or adversely affects the hydrological and geological values of a karst system or feature; and</li> <li>(b) The extent to which earthworks impact ridgelines or coastal headlands; and</li> <li>(c) For new tracks and driveways, measures taken to follow the contour of the landscape, use visually recessive materials, and avoid large batter slopes or retaining walls; and</li> <li>(d) Whether the earthworks are setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(e) The protection of existing vegetation and/or mitigation/enhancement planting to assist the visual integration and to avoid, mitigate or remedy adverse effects on the hydrological and geological values of a karst system or feature; and</li> </ul>			

The rules apply to all zones			The rules apply to all zones except the rural production zone	
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
	<p>(f) The extent to which existing vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of streambank and slope erosion, sedimentation, water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and</p> <p>(g) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities; and</p> <p>(h) Any measures necessary to rehabilitate the land following the completion of the activity; and</p> <p>(i) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</p> <p>(j) Measures to maintain slope stability or prevent exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</p> <p>(k) The method of sediment retention and sediment runoff control to be adopted; and</p> <p>(l) The extent of adverse cumulative effects at a catchment scale on hydrological and geological values of a karst system or feature; and</p> <p>(m) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil; and</p> <p>(n) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effect of the activity on the landscape; and</p> <p>(o) Measures to control the effect on air quality from objectionable particulate matter.</p>			
<p><i>Note: All earthworks must also comply with NATC-R4 and CEH-R3.</i></p> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017 in outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes and in the karst overlay.</i></p> <p><i>Note: In the landscapes of high amenity value, for zones other than the general rural zone and natural open space zone, the provisions in the <a href="#">earthworks chapter</a> apply.</i></p>				

## Quarrying activities

The rules apply to all zones			The rules apply to all zones except the rural production zone	
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R9.	Farm quarrying and forestry quarrying			
	PR	PER: Where less than or equal to 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year	PER: Where less than or equal to 500 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year	PER: where less than or equal to 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year

			See the NES for Commercial Forestry for forestry quarries	
		RDIS: Where greater than 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year.	RDIS: Where greater than 500 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year.	RDIS: Where greater than 250 m <sup>3</sup> per holding per calendar year.
<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Whether the location and scale of the earthworks detracts from the landscape or adversely affects the hydrological and geological values of a karst system or feature; and</li> <li>(b) The extent to which earthworks impact ridgelines or coastal headlands; and</li> <li>(c) Measures taken to avoid large batter slopes or retaining walls; and</li> <li>(d) Whether the earthworks are setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(e) The protection of existing vegetation and/or mitigation/enhancement planting to assist the visual integration and to avoid, mitigate or remedy adverse effects on the hydrological and geological values of a karst system or feature; and</li> <li>(f) The extent to which existing vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of streambank and slope erosion, sedimentation, water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and</li> <li>(g) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities; and</li> <li>(h) Any measures necessary to rehabilitate the land following the completion of the activity; and</li> <li>(i) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(j) Measures to maintain slope stability or prevent exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</li> <li>(k) The method of sediment retention and sediment runoff control to be adopted; and</li> <li>(l) The extent of adverse cumulative effects at a catchment scale on hydrological and geological values of a karst system or feature; and</li> <li>(m) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil; and</li> <li>(n) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effect of the activity on the landscape; and</li> <li>(o) Measures to control the effect on air quality from objectionable particulate matter.</li> </ul>				
<p><i>Note: All earthworks must also comply with NATC-R4 and CEH-R3</i></p> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017 in the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes and in the karst overlay.</i></p>				
NFL-R10.	Quarrying activities and mineral prospecting and exploration			

	PR	See zone rules for mineral prospecting and exploration  NC: Quarrying activities	See zone rules for mineral prospecting and exploration  DIS: Quarrying activities	See zone rules for mineral prospecting and exploration  NC: Quarrying activities
--	----	--	---	--

## Hydroseeding

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R11.	Hydroseeding			
	PER: Category A,F  RDIS: Category B,C,D,E	PER	PER	PER
<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Whether the location and scale of the hydroseeding detracts from the outstanding natural feature; and</li> <li>(b) The location, timing of hydroseeding, recontouring and vegetation removal activities; and</li> <li>(c) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(d) Measures to maintain slope stability or prevent exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</li> <li>(e) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil.</li> </ul>				

## Forestry

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R12.	Commercial forestry afforestation			



The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
	PR	PER: subject to criteria See NFL-S2.	See the NES for Commercial Forestry	RDIS
<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The effects of the location, layout, and extent of planting including the arrangement, distribution and choice of species on ecological, hydrological and geological values of the karst system; and</li> <li>(b) The extent to which existing vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of slope erosion, sedimentation, water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and</li> <li>(c) Whether the afforestation is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(d) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities and any rehabilitation measures proposed; and</li> <li>(e) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(f) The benefits of afforestation in respect of ecological, hydrological and geological values of the karst system or coastal landscape; and</li> <li>(g) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to ecological, hydrological and geological values of the karst system or coastal landscape.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017 in the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes and in the karst overlay.</i></p>				
NFL-R13.	Commercial forestry harvesting			
	NC	PER: subject to criteria See NFL-S3.	See the NES for Commercial Forestry	PER: subject to criteria See NFL-S3.
<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The effects of the location and extent of harvesting on landscape values; and</li> <li>(b) Whether the harvesting activity is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(c) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities and any rehabilitation measures proposed; and</li> <li>(d) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(e) The effects of harvesting in respect of slope stability or exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</li> </ul>				

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
(f) The effects on soil erosion post-harvest; and (g) The extent to which vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of streambank and slope erosion, sedimentation, water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and (h) The extent of adverse cumulative effects at a catchment scale; and (i) The effect of the activity on traffic safety, efficiency and impacts on roading infrastructure; and (j) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil; and (k) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of the activity on areas of high/very high natural character, including the adverse effects of flood-borne slash and debris damage. <i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017.</i>				
NFL-R14.	Continuous cover forestry and/or <a href="#">sustainable forest management</a> /sustainable harvesting.			
	PER: Category F subject to criteria See NFL-S1.  PR: Category A,B,C,D,E	PER: subject to criteria See NFL-S1.	PER: subject to criteria See NFL-S1.	PER: subject to criteria See NFL-S1.

## Indigenous vegetation removal

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R15.	Removal of indigenous vegetation outside of a significant natural area			
	RDIS	PER: Where less than or equal to 5000 m <sup>2</sup> per holding per calendar year	N/A see zone rules	PER: Where less than or equal to 5000 m <sup>2</sup> per holding per calendar year
		RDIS: Where greater than 5000 m <sup>2</sup> per		RDIS: Where greater than 5000 m <sup>2</sup> per holding per calendar year.

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
		holding per calendar year.		
<p>Where the activity status is RDIS, the matters over which discretion is restricted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Whether the removal of vegetation detracts from the feature or landscape or adversely affects the hydrological and geological values of a karst system or feature; and</li> <li>(b) Whether the vegetation removal is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(c) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities; and</li> <li>(d) Any measures necessary to rehabilitate the land following the completion of the activity; and</li> <li>(e) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(f) Measures to maintain slope stability or prevent exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</li> <li>(g) The method of sediment retention and sediment runoff control to be adopted; and</li> <li>(h) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil; and</li> <li>(i) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of the activity on the karst feature or landscape.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: See the rules in the <a href="#">ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter</a> if the activity is undertaken within a significant natural area.</i></p> <p><i>Note: This activity must also comply with NATC-R1.</i></p>				

## Caves & sinkholes

*Note: For tourism activities in caves see the underlying zone provisions. For tourism activities on the surface of water underground, see the [activities on the surface of water chapter](#).*

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R16.	Creation of new entrances into caves, <a href="#">structures</a> within caves or other modifications to cave features			
	NC	DIS	DIS	DIS
NFL-R17.	Any <a href="#">earthworks</a> or clearance of vegetation (other than plant pest species, wilding pines, or when required in emergency situations such as the recovery of stock) within a 20 m radius of an entry or opening into any cave or sinkhole			

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
	NC	DIS	DIS	DIS
<p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017 in the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes and in the karst overlay.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Where vegetation clearance is proposed in a significant natural area the provisions in the ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter apply.</i></p> <p><i>Note: for the avoidance of doubt fencing to protect a karst feature and associated digging holes for fence posts within the 20m radius is permitted</i></p>				
NFL-R18.	Any fill or rubbish placement into any cave or sinkhole OR within a 20 m radius of an entry or opening into any cave or sinkhole			
	DIS: Rural production zone PR: All other zones	NC	DIS	DIS: Rural Production Zone PR: All other zones

NFL - Table 2 – Performance Standards

NFL-S1.	Continuous cover forestry and/or <a href="#">sustainable forest management</a> /sustainable harvesting
<p>Activity Status: PER</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The harvesting must be subject to a sustainable forest management plan or permit under Forests Act 1949; and</li> <li>Harvesting must be located at least 10 m from the edge of any water body as measured from the bankfull channel width (see <a href="#">NATC – Figure 1</a>); and</li> <li>Harvesting must not occur within 20 m from the open coast as measured from the toe of the nearest natural bank adjoining the sea,</li> </ol>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS</p> <p>Matters over which discretion is restricted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location and extent of the activity and its effects on the feature and wider landscape; and</li> <li>The location of trees to be harvested; and</li> <li>The area of trees to be harvested on an annual basis; and</li> <li>Whether the harvesting activity is setback from coastal or riparian margins; and</li> <li>The extent to which existing vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of streambank and slope erosion, sedimentation,</li> </ol>

<p>or where that is not able to be defined, from the edge of common terrestrial vegetation.</p> <p><i>Note: See the rules in the <a href="#">ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter</a> if the activity is undertaken within a significant natural area.</i></p>	<p>water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and</p> <p>(f) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities and any rehabilitation measures proposed; and</p> <p>(g) The effects of the activity in respect of riparian margin and bank stability and soil erosion; and</p> <p>(h) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of the activity on the outstanding natural feature, karst feature and wider landscape.</p>
NFL-S2.	Commercial forestry afforestation
<p>Activity Status: PER</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In outstanding natural landscapes other than the western coast outstanding natural landscape, the afforestation must not exceed 2 ha of exotic commercial forestry per holding per calendar year; or</li> <li>2. In the western coast outstanding natural landscape, the afforestation must not exceed 5 ha of exotic commercial forestry per holding per calendar year;</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Afforestation must be located at least 10 m from the edge of any water body as measured from the bankfull channel width (see <a href="#">NATC – Figure 1</a>); and</li> <li>4. Afforestation must not occur within 20 m from the open coast as measured from the toe of the nearest natural bank adjoining the sea, or where that is not able to be defined, from the edge of common terrestrial vegetation.</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Note: See the rules in the <a href="#">ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter</a> if the activity is undertaken within a significant natural area.</i></p>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RD1S</p> <p>Matters over which discretion is restricted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The effects of the location, layout, and extent of planting including the arrangement, distribution and choice of species on landscape values; and</li> <li>(b) Whether the afforestation detracts from the outstanding natural landscape; and</li> <li>(c) Whether the afforestation is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(d) The extent to which existing vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of streambank and slope erosion, sedimentation, water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and</li> <li>(e) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities and any rehabilitation measures proposed; and</li> <li>(f) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(g) The benefits of afforestation in respect of slope stability or preventing exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</li> <li>(h) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil; and</li> <li>(i) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of the activity on outstanding natural landscapes.</li> </ol>

NFL- S3.	Harvesting of commercial forestry
<p>Activity Status: PER</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In outstanding natural landscapes and in the karst overlay, clear-felling of (exotic or indigenous) commercial forestry must not exceed 2 ha per holding per calendar year; and</li> <li>2. Replanting must occur within 12 months; and</li> <li>3. Harvesting must be located at least 10 m from the edge of any water body as measured from the bankfull channel width (see <a href="#">NATC – Figure 1</a>); and</li> <li>4. Harvesting must not occur within 20 m from the open coast as measured from the toe of the nearest natural bank adjoining the sea, or where that is not able to be defined, from the edge of common terrestrial vegetation.</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Note: See the rules in the <a href="#">ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter</a> if the activity is undertaken within a significant natural area.</i></p>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS</p> <p>Matters over which discretion is restricted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The effects of the location and extent of harvesting on landscape values or on ecological, hydrological and geological values of the karst system or feature; and</li> <li>(b) Whether the harvesting activity is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(c) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities and any rehabilitation measures proposed; and</li> <li>(d) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(e) The effects of harvesting in respect of slope stability or exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</li> <li>(f) The effects on soil erosion post-harvest; and</li> <li>(g) The extent to which vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of streambank and slope erosion, sedimentation, water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and</li> <li>(h) The extent of adverse cumulative effects at a catchment scale on ecological, hydrological and geological values of the karst system or landscape; and</li> <li>(i) The effect of the activity on traffic safety, efficiency and impacts on roading infrastructure; and</li> <li>(j) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil; and</li> <li>(k) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of the activity on ecological, hydrological and geological values of the karst system or landscape, including the adverse effects of leaching, flood-borne slash and debris damage.</li> </ol>

# SCHED7 – Outstanding Natural Landscapes | Ngā Hanga Māori Ahurei me Ngā Nohopae

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
ONL1		Northern Coastline	Northern Coast ONL 1 relates to the densely bush covered ridgelines, slopes and stream valleys throughout the western portion of the LCU 1a and the bush covered coastal hill slopes, wetlands and coastal cliff areas within LCU 1b (- see LCU Mapping). ONL 1 also includes the Te Maika peninsula which defines the western edge of the Kawhia Harbour and is flanked on either side by the bush clad coastal landforms.	Outstanding natural landscape	<p>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Kawhia harbour: richly indented harbour coastline with rolling to steeply dissected lowland bush clad hill country backdrop. Coastline characterised by a mix of sandy beaches and mud flats interspersed with highly attractive and distinctive coastal cliffs and rock outcrops.</p> <p>West of the harbour: shallow black sand beaches backdropped by steep and dramatic coastal cliffs along north facing coastline interspersed with rocky outcrops, reefs and dramatic coastal cliff promontories culminating in the distinctive landform of Albatross Point.</p> <p>Several sites of geological significance including: around the coastline at Te Maika (Jurassic sequence), Totara Point and Captain Springs Shellbed (Jurassic fossils), Heteri Point (Jurassic macrofossils), Ohaua Point (Jurassic fossils), around Albatross Point (Jurassic sediments and syncline), Anaomaki Point (volcanic) and the Arataura Point-Ururoa Point cliffs (Jurassic sequence with fossil bed).</p> <p>Extensive and contiguous high-quality coastal forest. Identified as Nationally Significant SNA. Kiwi habitat. Large example of an underrepresented habitat type.</p> <p>Kawhia harbour and its margins are habitat for many species of shore and wading birds, including threatened species such as black stilt, Australasian bittern, banded dotterel, banded rail, spotless crane and North Island fernbird. Other species include</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>New Zealand dotterel, black-fronted tern and Caspian tern. The harbour is also used by international migrant species such as bar-tailed godwit, lesser knot, turnstone, Asiatic whimbrel and eastern curlew.</p> <p>Strongly tidal harbour setting.</p> <p>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable panoramic coastal views to the area from the Kawhia harbour, Kawhia settlement, Whakapirau Road, the DoC track, the air and the surrounding rural and rural residential context in which the area reads as a relatively untouched tract of coastal bush country backdropping the harbour or coastal cliffs.</p> <p>The complex patterning of fingers of bush covered headlands extending into the highly tidal Kawhia harbour create a complex, dramatic and dynamic outlook that is highly engaging.</p> <p>The highly dynamic waters of the Tasman Sea seen against the dramatic coastal cliffs and backdropped by a continuous mantle of bush is both striking and impressive.</p> <p>The visual coherence arising from the contiguous bush cover throughout the area adds to the memorability of the outlook.</p> <p>In places the visibility of Mt Taranaki, Mt Karioi and Pirongia in combination with the bush covered hill slopes, coastal cliffs, and/or highly dynamic sea/harbour waters add to the memorability and drama of the outlook.</p> <p>High degree of naturalness as a consequence of: the strong influence of the tidal harbour and/or exposed coastal waters; the very low level of built development and its modest and low key/informal character (which includes a dark night sky); the dramatic coastal landforms (cliffs, rocky outcrops and reefs) and the scale and dominance of bush cover.</p> <p>Highly memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above.</p> <p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of richly dissected landform patterning.</p>



Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>Harbour and coastal margins strongly expressive of coastal processes.</p> <p>The highly tidal nature of the harbour and avifauna values imbue a high level of transient values. The extreme weather associated with the exposed Tasman Sea coastline also contributes to the transient values.</p> <p>Generally a high perception of remoteness as a consequence of the very limited built development, the inaccessibility of the area and the humble and very modest character of existing built development.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Coastline richly endowed with cultural heritage sites.</p> <p><b>The harbour is the birthplace of Te Rauparaha (Ngāti Toa) who lived in the area until the 1920s when he and his tribe, along with Ngāti Rāua and Ngāti Koata, migrated southwards.</b></p> <p>DoC tracks together with the popularity of the Kawhia Harbour for boating and expert level surf break at Albatross Point (subject to landowner permission to access private land) confers recreational values.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally, the area qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. its very high ecological values;</li> <li>b. the high degree of naturalness arising from: the wild and/or dynamic coastal context; the very limited human modification which, where visible is subservient to the more natural landscape elements, patterns and processes by virtue of its modest and very low key /informal character; and the dramatic coastal landforms and the dominance of indigenous bush cover;</li> <li>c. <b>the strong sense of remoteness and 'getting away from it all' as a consequence of the very limited level of development and the relative inaccessibility of the area;</b></li> </ul>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>d. the high aesthetic and memorability values of the area as a consequence of its highly attractive and dramatic visual character and context; and</p> <p>e. cultural landscape values.</p> <p>The more pasture dominated and inhabited eastern portion of LCU 1a is excluded from ONL 1 as a consequence of the level of human modification combined with the considerably more fragmented patterning of indigenous vegetation. However, the highly attractive character of the area dominated by its almost unbroken visual connection with the dynamic and scenic waters of the harbour means that it is considered to comprise an RMA s7(c) Amenity Landscape – refer LHAV 1 Kawhia Harbour.</p>
ONL2		Western Coast	Western Coast ONL 2 relates to the stretch of coastline extending from Motunau to the flat land around Awakino and encompasses the coastal environment throughout that area together with the bush covered hill slopes extending up the ridgeline system that serves to separate the coastal environment from the Mangatōa and Manganui valleys to the east.	Outstanding natural landscape	<p>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Highly dramatic coastal cliff and shelf sequence interspersed with: rocky ledges, shoals and reefs; sandy bays with spits, dunes and coastal flats.</p> <p>Several sites of very high geological significance (i.e. ONF) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal cliffs to the north and south of Kiritehere. (North of Kiritehere: well-exposed examples of submarine slumps, excellent series. Excellent series of numerous zeolitised vitric tuff beds in sedimentary sequence. Important for invertebrate and pollen stratigraphy and best Triassic sequence in the North Island. Rich gastropod fauna. South of Kiritehere: oldest Triassic strata in the North Island.)</li> <li>Marokopa River mouth sandspits and dune field.</li> <li>Coastline in the vicinity of Waikawau.</li> <li>Paparahia Cave feature.</li> </ul> <p>Extensive and, for the most part, contiguous SNA (of national and international significance) identified throughout the steep elevated bush-clad slopes throughout the eastern portion of the unit and the steep-sided gullies (on the western side) draining to</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>the coast. Rare ecological sequences (eg black beech), nationally endangered plant and avifauna species, under-represented vegetation types (eg coastal forest, scrub and dunes) and under-represented habitat types evident.</p> <p>Numerous intact wetlands.</p> <p>Shore bird and whitebait habitat (in river mouths).</p> <p>Highly dynamic west coast setting.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly attractive views of the coastal cliffs, bays, Waikawau Tunnel, river mouths/dune and spit landforms, Tasman Sea, western coastal cliffs/shelves and bush-clad hill backdrop. From the water and air, the unit reads as a dramatic and highly memorable west coast landscape.</p> <p>The complex patterning of highly sculpted coastal landforms (cliffs, shelves, ledges) backdropped by the moulded pasture covered slopes and rugged bush clad ridge slopes seen alongside the forceful waters of the Tasman is impressive and highly engaging.</p> <p>The patterning of steeply dissected bush clad stream valleys and small-scale bays adds further complexity and interest resulting in an extremely striking coastal landscape.</p> <p>The visibility of Mt Taranaki and Mt Karioi together with the vast stretches of coastal cliffs extending to the north and south of the area, add to the memorability and drama of the outlook.</p> <p>On a clear day, the location enables a quite unique appreciation <b>of the 'shape' of the Taranaki Bight.</b></p> <p>Very high degree of naturalness as a consequence of: the strong influence of the exposed coastal waters; the dramatic coastal landforms; the extremely low level of built development and inaccessibility of the majority of the area; the extensive areas of bush; and the low-intensity character of the farmland.</p> <p>Highly memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above. The extreme weather and high</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>dynamism associated with the coastal cliffs and shelves often associated with the area adds to its memorability.</p> <p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of bold landform patterning including the coastal cliffs and shelves, the steeply dissected hill slopes and the rugged and prominent ridgeline landforms. In places, the pasture cover throughout some of the steeply dissected hill slopes adds to their legibility. Sandy bays, spits, dunefields, eroding cliffs/shelves and bush lined gullies strongly expressive of landscape shaping processes. The extreme weather associated with the exposed Tasman Sea coastline contributes to the transient values with active cliff/shelf erosion evident in numerous locations.</p> <p>Generally a high perception of remoteness as a consequence of the very limited built development, the inaccessibility of the area and the low key and very modest character of existing built development.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Coastline richly endowed with cultural heritage sites.</p> <p>Waikawau Tunnel together with the DoC track near Pehimatea confer some recreational values. The regionally significant surf breaks at Marokopa and Kiritehere are also of some relevance, albeit likely to be outside of the ONL itself.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally, the area qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>its very high geological values;</li> <li>its very high ecological values;</li> <li>the very high degree of naturalness arising from: the strong influence of the exposed coastal waters; the dramatic coastal landforms; the extremely low level of built development and inaccessibility of the majority of the area; the extensive areas of bush; and the low-intensity character of the farmland;</li> </ol>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>d. <b>the strong sense of remoteness and 'getting away from it all' as a consequence of the very limited level of development and the relative inaccessibility of the area;</b></p> <p>e. the very high aesthetic and memorability values of the area as a consequence of its highly attractive, impressive and striking visual character and context; and</p> <p>f. cultural landscape values.</p> <p>ONL 2 excludes the coastal flats around Marokopa, Kiritehere, Awakino and Mokau as these are assessed to comprise a smaller <b>'settled' landscapes nested within the wider western coast</b> landscape. The level of modification in each of these areas together with their generally reduced sense of drama, memorability and remoteness is such that they do not qualify for consideration as ONL.</p> <p>Similarly LCU 2 Taharoa Ironsands and LCU 3 Dune Lakes which are also located within the coastal environment are excluded from ONL 2. Whilst there are a number of very high value landscape features within LCU 3 Dune Lakes (for examples the lakes themselves and the wetland/bush features), overall the influence of the nearby sand mining operation, production forestry, quarry, settlement and generally more fragmented land use patterns are such that despite the highly attractive lake and wetland features, exhibits a reduced sense of naturalness and aesthetic quality such that it does not qualify as outstanding.</p>
ONL3		Mokau Hills	ONL 3 Mokau Hills relates to the extensive patterning of bush clad hills and steeply incised valleys in the south-western quadrant of the district, inland of Mokau and to the south of the Awakino Gorge.	Outstanding natural landscape	<p>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Steeply dissected and rugged bush clad terrain.</p> <p>Vast expanse of contiguous SNA with the majority ranked as being of National significance. Habitat for threatened or at-risk flora and fauna.</p> <p>Mokau River and estuary, together with complex network of tributaries.</p> <p>Mahoenui Coal Mine.</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Attractive views of the rugged, bush-clad terrain from the air and DoC tracks throughout the area.</p> <p>The mature character of much of the bush cover together with its continuous cover confers a strong sense of <b>'indigenous New Zealand' and a high level of aesthetic coherence.</b></p> <p>Forms rugged bush clad hill backdrop in views from SH3 to the north and south of Awakino Gorge.</p> <p>Very high degree of naturalness as a consequence of: the dominant influence of the large-scale rugged bush-clad terrain interspersed with numerous watercourses; the inaccessibility of the area; and the generally very limited level of human modification evident.</p> <p>Memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above.</p> <p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of bold landform and watercourse patterning including the steeply dissected hill slopes and the rugged and prominent ridgeline landforms.</p> <p>Complex ridgeline patterns, steeply incised valleys and winding streams/rivers expressive of landscape shaping processes.</p> <p>Generally a very high perception of remoteness/wilderness as a consequence of the strongly endemic character of the landcover, very limited built development, the inaccessibility of the area, and the low key/very modest character of existing built development.</p> <p>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Some cultural heritage sites throughout unit, largely along stream and river margins. Historically the Mokau River was an important boundary between the Tainui and Taranaki tribal areas.</p> <p>DoC tracks and popularity of the area for hunting and whitebaiting confers some recreational values.</p> <p>SUMMARY OF VALUES</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>Generally the area qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. its very high ecological values;</li> <li>b. the very high degree of naturalness arising from: the dominant influence of the large-scale rugged bush-clad terrain interspersed with numerous watercourses; the inaccessibility of the area; and the generally very limited level of human modification evident;</li> <li>c. the very strong sense of remoteness and wilderness as a consequence of the strongly endemic character of the landcover, very limited built development, the inaccessibility of the area, and the low key/very modest character of existing built development;</li> <li>d. the high aesthetic and memorability values of the area as a consequence of its attractive visual character and context in both closer range and long-range views (including from DoC tracks and SH3); and</li> <li>e. cultural landscape values.</li> </ul> <p>The recreational values of the area associated with its use for tramping, hunting and whitebaiting also contribute to these values.</p> <p>The more gently sloping pastoral terraces interspersed with bush lined stream valleys throughout the northern margins of the unit are excluded from the ONL 3 as a consequence of: the level of human modification combined with the considerably more fragmented patterning of indigenous vegetation. The location of these terraces on the edge of the wider bush setting reinforces their perception of a smaller and slightly different landscape nested within the wider Mokau Hills landscape unit.</p>
ONL4		Herangi-Pomarangai	ONL 4 Herangi-Pomarangai relates to the extensive patterning of bush clad and rugged ranges, foothills and narrow inland valleys	Outstanding natural landscape	<p>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Steeply sloping and dissected landforms interspersed with numerous stream valleys.</p> <p>Dramatic and distinctive ridgelines and peaks in places.</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
			along the western side of the District.		<p>Highly sculpted pastoral landforms frame stream valleys in places.</p> <p>Fossil features at Rauroa Stream.</p> <p>Vast expanse of contiguous SNA with the majority ranked as being of National significance. The proximity to the west coast provides an unusually cold and moist climate. Whareorino features tawa, hinau, kamahi, and rewarewa as well as podocarps, and is particularly valued for its range of vegetation, from coastal and lowland vegetation types to subalpine and montane. At the top of the Herangi Range, 600–800 m above sea level, the ridges are covered in low scrub and kaikawaka along with neinei, pepperwood and divaricating shrubs interspersed with areas of cushion bog. This vegetation is sub-alpine and uncommon in the King Country. Riroriro (grey warbler), miromiro (<b>tomtit</b>), <b>tītiti pounamu (rifleman)</b> and <b>koekoeā (long-tailed cuckoo)</b>, <b>kereru (wood pigeon)</b>, <b>korimako (bellbird)</b>, <b>pōpokotea (whitehead)</b>, <b>kārearea (bush falcon)</b>, <b>kaka</b>, <b>kiwi</b>, <b>kokako</b>, <b>native bats</b>, <b>Archey's frogs</b> and <b>Hochstetter's frog</b> recorded in Whareorino Forest. Habitat for threatened or at-risk flora and fauna.</p> <p>Much of the bush cover is in DoC ownership or protected by way of QE II Covenant.</p> <p>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable views of the rugged and dramatic large-scale bush-clad ridgeline and peak landforms, and steeply incised valleys from local roads and walking tracks.</p> <p>Longer range memorable views to the bush clad ranges and distinctive peaks from the lower lying land to the east (including SH3) and west (eg Waikawau Valley).</p> <p>The dense and extensive bush mantle extending throughout the dramatic ridgelines and peaks, together with the very low intensity pastoral farming and modest buildings throughout valleys confers a strong sense of 'indigenous and old school New</p>



Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p><b>Zealand' that is highly attractive and generally displays a high level of aesthetic coherence.</b></p> <p>Very high degree of naturalness as a consequence of: the dominant influence of the large-scale rugged bush-clad terrain; the relatively inaccessibility of the area; and the generally very limited level of human modification evident. Localised areas of reduced naturalness associated with pastoral farming, although the limited scale within the wider footprint and/or with its limited visibility means that it does not contribute an appreciable landscape character-shaping influence on the wider ONL.</p> <p>Highly memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above.</p> <p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of the bold landform and watercourse patterns. Gully vegetation patterning serves to reinforce landscape legibility in places.</p> <p>Complex ridgeline patterns, winding streams and gully remnant patterning expressive of landscape shaping processes.</p> <p>Generally, a very high perception of remoteness/wilderness as a consequence of the strongly endemic character of the landcover, very limited built development, the inaccessibility of the area, and the low key/very modest character of existing built development.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Some cultural heritage sites throughout unit.</p> <p>DoC tracks and popularity of the area for tramping, hunting, fly fishing and as a scenic route (Pomarangai Road, Mangatoa Road and Manganui Road) confers high recreational values.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally, the area qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. it has very high ecological values;</li> <li>b. the very high degree of naturalness arising from: the dominant influence of the large-scale rugged bush-clad terrain interspersed with numerous watercourses; the</li> </ul>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>inaccessibility of the area; and the generally very limited level of human modification evident;</p> <p>c. the very strong sense of remoteness and wilderness as a consequence of the dramatic scale of the rugged terrain, peaks and ridgelines, the strongly endemic character of the landcover, the (relative) inaccessibility of the area, the very limited built development, and the low key/very modest character of existing built development;</p> <p>d. its high recreational values associated with the network of walking tracks, scenic route and popularity of the area for tramping, hunting and fly fishing;</p> <p>e. the high shared and recognised values associated with the area, borne out in its popularity as a place to visit and recreate in;</p> <p>f. the high aesthetic and memorability values of the area as a consequence of its highly attractive visual character and context in both closer range and long-range views (including from DoC tracks, local roads and SH3) and its remoteness / naturalness qualities; and</p> <p>g. the cultural landscape values associated with the area.</p> <p>The majority of the narrow inland pastoral valleys within the Herangi-Pomarangai LCU are included within ONL 4. This includes pastoral land and slivers of production forestry around Moeatoa and Paparahia Station, straddling the road corridor and pastoral land along the Gribbon Road valley. The relatively small scale of these pastoral/production forestry areas within the wide bush clad hill and range landscape is such that they do not read as separate landscapes deserving of exclusion. Further, the highly sculpted landforms evident in these areas means that they also make a positive (albeit slightly different) contribution to the values of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p>The exception to this is the broader pastoral valley system around Waikawau. This area is of sufficient scale and contrasting character (small scale settlement with extensive flat and gently</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					rolling pastoral farming areas and some larger areas of production forestry) to warrant consideration as a smaller landscape nested within the broader Herangi-Pomarangai landscape. The level of human modification within the area coupled with the paucity of indigenous vegetation means that it does not qualify for inclusion within the ONL. Elsewhere, the extent of ONL 4 is defined by bush edges.
ONL 5		Rock Peak	ONL 5 Rock Peak Bush relates to the steep bush clad terrain in the northern margins of LCU 13 Elevated Central Hills and Valleys. NB the extent of ONL 5 corresponds to extent of International Significant Bush adjoining the Otorohanga ONL.	Outstanding natural landscape	<p><b>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Steeply sloping and dissected landforms interspersed with numerous stream valleys.</p> <p>Dramatic and distinctive ridgelines and peaks in places.</p> <p>Vast expanse of contiguous and extremely high-quality SNA with the majority ranked as being of International or National significance. Habitat for threatened or at-risk flora and fauna. Much of the bush cover is in DoC ownership or protected by way of QE II Covenant.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable views of the rugged and dramatic large-scale bush-clad ridgeline and peak landforms, and steeply incised valleys from local roads and walking tracks (including Te Araroa).</p> <p>The dense and extensive bush mantle extending throughout the dramatic ridgelines and peaks, confers a very strong sense of <b>'indigenous New Zealand' and aesthetic coherence.</b></p> <p>Very high degree of naturalness as a consequence of: the dominant influence of the large-scale rugged bush-clad terrain; the relatively inaccessibility of the area; and the generally very limited level of human modification evident.</p> <p>Highly memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above.</p> <p>Complex ridgeline patterns and winding streams expressive of landscape shaping processes.</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of the bold landform and watercourse patterns.</p> <p>Generally a very high perception of remoteness/wilderness as a consequence of the strongly endemic character of the landcover, the very limited level of built development and the inaccessibility of the area.</p> <p>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Te Araroa confers high recreational values.</p> <p>SUMMARY OF VALUES</p> <p>Generally the area qualifies in terms of outstanding-ness as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. its extremely high ecological values;</li> <li>b. the very high degree of naturalness arising from: the dominant influence of the large-scale rugged bush-clad terrain interspersed with numerous watercourses; the inaccessibility of the area; and the very limited level of human modification evident;</li> <li>c. the very strong sense of remoteness and wilderness as a consequence of the dramatic scale of the rugged terrain, peaks and ridgelines, the strongly endemic character of the landcover, the (relative) inaccessibility of the area and the very limited built development;</li> <li>d. its high recreational values associated with Te Araroa;</li> <li>e. the moderate-high shared and recognised values associated with the area, associated with Te Araroa;</li> <li>f. the high aesthetic and memorability values of the area as a consequence of its highly attractive visual character and context in both closer range and long-range views (including from DoC tracks and local roads) and its remoteness / naturalness qualities.</li> </ul> <p>The extent of ONL 5 is defined by bush edges.</p> <p>NB ONL 5 adjoins and ONL in the Ōtorohanga District adjacent (to the north)</p>

## SCHED8 – Outstanding Natural Features

*Note: For some outstanding natural features, the scheduled area does not match the legal parcel boundaries. Please see the planning maps to determine the area of a site that the listing applies to.*

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF01		Anaomaki Point volcanic section	On west coast, south of Kawhia	Taharoa A1C11 Block	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Well preserved and southernmost occurrence of Orangiwhao Volcanics. Only volcanic centre in Waitomo District. Regional Importance.
ONF02		Aranui Cave	Adjacent to Ruakuri Cave carpark, Tumutumu Road	Part Section 7 Block X Orahiri SD	F - Caves	Dense speleothem assemblage. Tourist cave. National Importance.
ONF03		Arataura Point Jurassic sequence Mapped with ONF17	Kawhia Harbour, outer coast between Te Maika and Albatross Point	Taharoa A1B2 Block Section 34 Parawai MAORI TNSP	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Stratotype of the New Zealand Jurassic, Aratauran Stage. National Importance.
ONF04		Awakino Gorge tunnel Oligocene and Miocene record	North end of Awakino Gorge Road, SH3	Lot 3 DP 17787 Part Lot 1 DPS 76143 Part of SH3 Stream	D - Robust exposures of geological material (non-coastal)	Most easily seen and one of the best exposed sequences recording the Oligocene and Miocene sedimentary and tectonic history of north Taranaki. Regional Importance.
ONF05		Awakino River mouth barrier	North side of Awakino River mouth	Sections 2, 3 & 14 Block VII Awakino North SD Lot 2 DP 542687 Paper Road	C - Dynamic landforms and features in the coastal zone	The largest river mouth barrier in the district. Regional Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF06		Awakino River mouth evidence of earliest volcanism	South side of Awakino River mouth	Lot 3 DPS 53621 Estuary	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Best and most easily accessible exposure of onset of volcanism off west coast of Waikato-North Taranaki. Regional Importance.
ONF07		Castle Craig bluffs	Ridge south of Marokopa Road	Part Marokopa 4 Block Marokopa 4D Block Section 4 Block IX Kawhia South SD	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Impressive isolated limestone citadel surrounded by high bluffs. Regional Importance.
ONF08		Deception Cave	East of Troopers Road	Lot 1 DP 401497 Part Sections 13, 14 & 15 Block VI Otake SD Lot 2 DPS 19376 Lot 1 DPS 22202	F - Caves	Spectacular gypsum speleothems. National Importance.
ONF09		Double Falls	Tawarau River	Part Sections 3 & 5 Block XV Kawhia South SD Lot 1 DPS 62998 Stream	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Double waterfalls like this uncommon in Waikato region. Regional Importance.
ONF10		Eight Mile Junction ignimbrite bluffs	1 km south of Eight Mile Junction	Maraetua 3B2A Block Maraetua 3B1B Block	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Best and most visible columnar-jointed ignimbrite bluffs in Waitomo District. Regional Importance.
ONF11		Gardners Gut Cave	Either side of Te Anga Road	Lot 1 DPS 12461 Lot 1 DPS 81508 Lot 2 DP 543849 Lot 2 DP 310690 Lots 1 & 3 DP 550308 Part Sections 6, 7 & 8 Block X Orahiri SD Sections 14, 27, 30 Block X Orahiri SD Part Uekaha A17 Block	F - Caves	Longest cave in the North Island (approx. 12km long). High recreational and education use. Significant speleothems, fossil and sediment deposits. Example of two-tier development. National Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
				Part Hauturu East 3B5 Block Hauturu East 3A Reserve Block Te Anga Road		
ONF12		Grand Canyon Cave	South side of Haku Road, Piopio	Lot 1 DPS 35511 Lot 1 DPS 88201	F - Caves	Large horizontal passage - part of a dismembered cave system, entrances either end. Maternity roost for long tail bats. National Importance.
ONF13		Heteri Point Jurassic fossils	South shore of Kawhia Harbour	Taharoa A6D4A1 Block Taharoa A6D1 Block Kawhia Harbour	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Stratotype of Late Jurassic New Zealand Heterian Stage. National Importance.
ONF14		Hikurangi Falls, Paritikona Stream	Paritikona Road, Mangaokewa	Lot 1 DP 13188	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Named waterfall over hard early Miocene sedimentary rocks. Regional Importance.
ONF15		Hollow Hill Cave	Hollow Hill Reserve, Hauturu. DoC	Lots 1 & 2 DPS 7481	F - Caves	Largest cave chamber in North Island. Large horizontal stream passage, three small inlet passages; excellent speleothems. Regional Importance.
ONF16		Kairimu Cave System	West of end of Kairimu Road	Lots 1 & 2 DP 418282	F - Caves	Several named caves that may be linked. Significant sedimentary deposits, biota and speleothems. Regional Importance.
ONF17		Kawhia West Coast Early to middle Jurassic fossiliferous sequence	On west coast south of Kawhia Harbour mouth	Taharoa A1B2 Block Section 34 Parawai MAORI TNSP Paper Road	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Most important, continuous and fossiliferous Lower to Middle Jurassic sequence in New Zealand. Stratotypes of NZ Jurassic stages Ururoan and Aratauran. Includes important Dactyloceras bed with a rich fossil fauna. National Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF18		Kiritehere Coast Triassic section	For 7km south from Kiritehere Beach	Section 3A & 6 Block I Whareorino SD Kinohaku West H1B2 Block Lot 1 DPS 73112	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Best continuous exposure of Triassic sequence in North Island including many New Zealand stages and rich fossil beds. National Importance.
ONF19		Kuratahi Cave	West of Mangaotaki Road, Piopio	Puketiti 4C & 5D Block	F - Caves	Kuratahi has dendritic development, gypsum crystal trees and other significant gypsum speleothems, sediment deposits. Regional Importance.
ONF20		Lake Harihari sand-dune dammed lake	South of Taharoa	Taharoa A7A2A Block Part Section 11 Block III Marokopa SD Taharoa A7J13B2B Block	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	One large and one small lake dammed by moving coastal sand dunes, surrounded by swamp lands. Regional Importance.
ONF21		Lake Rotokawau	South Waitomo	Waitomo A12B & A12A2 Blocks	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Small lake at head of small side valley of unknown origin - landslide blocked or karst solution. Surrounded by native forest. Regional Importance.
ONF22		Lake Rotokotuku	East of Te Kuiti	Kaingaika A17 Block Part of Tate Road	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Well defined small lake with no overflow drainage in limestone area. Regional Importance.
ONF23		Lake Taharoa dune-dammed lakes	Taharoa, south of Kawhia	TAHAROA A7 J13 A Block Taharoa A7A2A Block Part Taharoa A7A Block	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Largest dune-dammed lake on Waikato west coast and several smaller ones. Regional Importance.
ONF24		Lower Mangaotaki Gorge	On either side of SH3, 12-14 km southwest of Piopio	Part Section 5, 13 Block III Awakino East SD Puketiti 2B2E2B Block Section 4, 13 Block III Awakino East SD Lot 1 DPS 57443 Section 1 SO 58593 Part of Stream	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Most publicly visible limestone gorge in Waitomo District. Regional Importance.



Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
				Part of SH3		
ONF25		Mahoenui coal mine Miocene coal measures	7 km north of Awakino gorge tunnel	Part Mahoenui A1 Block	D - Robust exposures of geological material (non-coastal)	Exposures of Miocene Mokau Formation and Maryville Coal Measures, with under and overlying marine sandstones. Many thin coal seams. Regional Importance.
ONF26		Mangaokewa Stream scalloped ignimbrite bluffs	North side of Mangaokewa Road	Section 5 Block XI Pakaumanu SD	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Easily seen, unusual scalloped bluffs of ignimbrite with small waterfall. Regional Importance.
ONF27		Mangaokewa Valley ignimbrite-capped castle hill	North side of Mangaokewa Road	Part Section 10 Block XI Pakaumanu SD	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Best and most easily seen example of an ignimbrite-capped steep-sided circular hill (butte-like) in region. Regional Importance.
ONF28		Mangaorongo limestone gorge and natural bridges	7 km along Mangaorongo Stream	Lot 2 DP 10929 Sections 30 & 31 Block II Awakino East SD Section 6 Block XIV Maungamangero SD Lot 2 DPS 86365 Crown Land Lot 1 DPS 88201 Part Lot 1 DPS 21756 Part Sections 1 & 8 Block II Awakino East SD Mangaorongo Road Stream	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Spectacular limestone gorge with karst bluffs and rocks, several natural bridges. Regional Importance.
ONF29		Mangaotaki overhang	North side of Mangaotaki Road, west of Piopio	Section 42 Block VII Maungamangero SD Lot 2 DP 486511 Lot 2 Sec 11 Block VII Maungamangero SD	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	<b>Best “breaking-wave” overhang in the region.</b> Easily visible from public road. National Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF30		Mangapohue natural bridge	North side of Te Anga Road	Lots 1 & 2 DPS 8794 Part Kinohaku West L2B1 Block Part Taumatotara 1A2 Block Stream	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	One of most spectacular and accessible natural bridges in North Island. Tourist feature, unusual in that it has 2 tiers. National Importance.
ONF31		Mangapohue-Hauturu Road polygonal karst	Northeast side of Te Anga Road, and either side of Hauturu Road	Lot 2 DP 336434 Section 3 Block IX Orahiri SD Part Section 10 Block XII Kawhia South SD Lot 1 DP 408891 Lots 1 & 2 DPS 90176 Lot 1 DPS 76476 Lot 1 DPS 73365 Lots 1, 2, 3 DP 493460 Section 2 Block V Orahiri SD Part Section 3 Block V Orahiri SD Lot 1 DPS 86369 Section 11 Block IX Orahiri SD Hauturu Road Te Anga Road	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Most accessible and readily seen (from roads) area of temperate cockpit polygonal karst in NZ. Includes disappearing streams, blind valleys, sinkholes, springs, arches and fluted bluffs. Includes sinkholes, dry valleys, caves and bridges. International Importance.
ONF32		Mangapu Cave System Includes Lost World, Hamland Hole, Wellington Hole	Between Oparure and Troopers Roads	Lots 1 & 2 DPS 85156 Lot 1 DPS 45583 Lot 1 DPS 92476 Lot 1 DPS 77191 Lot 2 DP 327172 Lot 2 DPS 76735 Lot 2 DPS 64000 Part Kinohaku East 2No24C & 2No24D1 Blocks	F - Caves	Claimed to be the second largest underground river in North Island. Many important speleothems including the only calcite shields and the only aragonite speleothems so far recognised in North Island. Major use for tourism and recreation. Two side caves nearby have some of densest straws and best calcite speleothem assemblages in New Zealand. Best example of karst window in New Zealand.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
				Kinohaku East 2No24D2B Block Section 38 Block II Otake SD Pakeho A 18, 19A & 19B Blocks Troopers Road		National Importance.
ONF33		Mangapu Gorge and blind valley	South east of Oparure Road	Lots 1 & 2 DP 442789 Lot 1 DPS 92476 Lot 1 DPS 77191 Lot 2 DPS 76735 Lot 4 DP 10239 Lot 2 DPS 85156 Lot 1 DPS 5484 Whiroroa 1 & A1 Blocks Part Kinohaku East 2No24B1 Block	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Where the Mangapu Stream sinks is best example of a blind valley in the Waitomo District. Regional Importance.
ONF34		Mangawharawhara Stream natural bridges & tunnels	4 km of stream course, south of Haki Road, Plopio	Puketiti 3A, 4B, 4C, 3B2D Blocks Lot 1 DPS 35511 Lot 1 DPS 88201 Lot 1 DP 12503	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Spectacular karst landscape including Mangawharawhara Cavern, one of the two largest natural tunnels in the North Island. The presence of 2 tunnels and 5 bridges of such large size along one stream is unique in New Zealand. Catchment with numerous dolines, stream sinks, blind valleys and resurgences. National Importance.
ONF35		Mangawhitikau Gorge	3km length of stream bed, east of end of Waipapa Road, Waitomo	Lots 1 & 2 DPS 90988 Lot 1 DPS 80752 Lot 1 DPS 88192 Lot 1 DPS 20590 Lot 2 DPS 82239 Pakeho A12, A13, A14 Blocks	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Spectacular 1 km-long slit gorge incised in Oligocene limestone. Scenically attractive towering limestone karst formations. Runs into large glowworm cave. Regional Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
				Section 13 Block XIV Orahiri SD Sections 16 & 17 Block XIII Orahiri SD Section 6 Block I Otanake SD Paper Road		
ONF36		Mangawhitikau Cave System	South side of Boddies Road, Waitomo	Lot 1 DPS 90193 Lot 1 DPS 88192 Lot 2 DPS 82239 Lot 2 DPS 90988 Lot 3 DP 415545 Pakeho A5, A6, A7 Blocks Pakeho A9 (Urupa) Block Pakeho A11, A12, A13, A14 Blocks Paper Road	F - Caves	One of the largest river caves in North Island. High recreational and tourist value. Over 8 km of cave passage. Classic two-tiered geomorphic development and dry valley leading to former stream cave upstream. <b>Includes Mason's Dry Cave (fossil deposits), Flood Caverns, Mason's Glowworm Cave, Mangawhitikau Gorge and other small caves.</b> National Importance.
ONF37		Marokopa Falls	Next to Te Anga Road	Sections 26 & 27 Block X Kawhia South SD Part Section 4 Block X Kawhia South SD Part Section 7 Block X Kawhia South SD Te Anga Road Stream	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Largest waterfall in Waitomo District. Spectacular high falls flow over greywacke bluff from level of Oligocene peneplain. Regional Importance.
ONF38		Marokopa Road quarry Jurassic fauna	On side of Marokopa Valley Road	Section 19 Block VI Marokopa SD Marokopa Road	D - Robust exposures of geological material (non-coastal)	Richest middle Jurassic fossil fauna in New Zealand. National Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF39		Marokopa River natural tunnel and Te Ana Kapiti Cave	Within Kokakoroa polygonal karst overlay area	Part Lot 5B DP 7464 Taumatotara A5 (Residue) Block	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	One of two largest natural tunnel features in the North Island. Contains speleothems and glow-worms. National Importance.
ONF40		Marokopa Coast Triassic-Jurassic fossil-bearing sequence	Between Marokopa and Kiritehere in coastal cliffs and rocks	Kinohaku West P2A Block Section 5 Block VI Marokopa SD Lot 1, 2, 3, 4 DPS 13923 Paper Road	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Most complete and best exposed sequence through upper Triassic strata in the North Island. National Importance.
ONF41		Marokopa River mouth sandspit and dune field	North side of Marokopa River mouth	Marokopa 6 Block Marokopa Reserve Block Marokopa River	C - Dynamic landforms and features in the coastal zone	One of the most pristine southward-extending sandspits on the west Waikato coastline. Fixed dunes and swamps at north end. Regional Importance.
ONF42		Mokau River estuary	Lower 3 km of Mokau River	Motutawa Block Crown Land Survey Office Plan 18074 Lot 2 DP 498807 Lot 3 DP 411632 Lots 4, 5, 6 DP 7459 Lot 27 DP 3174 Part Lot 2 DP 11321 Part Hingarangi Kauri 3A Block Sections 12, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28 Block I Awakino SD Sections 2, 6 Block II Awakino SD Part Section 3 Block II Awakino SD Mokau Mohakatino 1C2B Part Mokau Mohakatino 2C3A1 & 2C3A2 Blocks Part Section 1 SO 13220	C - Dynamic landforms and features in the coastal zone	Most natural, least modified tidal estuary in Waitomo District. Flooded meandering river. Regional Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
				Part Section 6 Block I Tainui SD Section 1 Block I Tainui SD Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 Block II Tainui SD Sections 1, 2 SO 13604 Section 18 Block XI Mokau VILL Section 5 Block VII Mokau VILL Te Mahoe Road State Highway H3		
ONF43		Ohaua Point Jurassic fossils	South coast of Kawhia Harbour	SA Joseph GRANT Part Wesleyan GRANT	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Stratotype of Late Jurassic New Zealand Ohauan Stage, with rich macrofossils. National Importance.
ONF44		Omaru Falls	Walking Track from Omaru Road	Section 2 Block VIII Totoro SD Crown Land Block VII (under action) Mapara Survey District Section 25 Block VII Mapara SD Stream	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Classic curtain waterfall held up by thick cemented limestone unit. One of highest single drop waterfalls in Waitomo District. Regional Importance.
ONF45		Paparahia Cave	Paparahia Station	Lot 1 DPS 75032	F - Caves	Stream passage in Miocene limestone with beautiful speleothems. Regional Importance.
ONF46		Piripiri Public Cave	North side Te Anga Road	Part Section 4 Block X Kawhia South SD	F - Caves	Easily accessible small tourist cave, free access. Speleothems inside entrance cavern. Regional Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF47		Pukeroa Cave System	West side of Mangaorongo Road	Section 2 SO 538954 Sections 12, 14, 15 Block II Awakino East SD Lot 1 DPS 50480 Part Lot 1 DPS 21756 Mangaorongo Road	F - Caves	Second deepest known cave in the North Island. Crystal pools, speleothems, fossils. Recreational use. Major streamway, waterfalls, multiple entrances. Regional Importance.
ONF48		Puketiti Flower Cave	On Puketiti Station	Lot 1 DPS 88201	F - Caves	Speleothems - gypsum flowers. Gated cave to protect the delicate cave formations since 1970s. National Importance.
ONF49		Puketutu ignimbrite amphitheatre and waterfall	South side of SH30, 3 km south of Puketutu	Part Lot 1 DP 5312	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Readily visible amphitheatre of columnar-jointed ignimbrite that has been eroded back by small stream that forms waterfall over it. Regional Importance.
ONF50		Pureora buried forest	3 km northeast of Pureora Village	Section 3 SO 441383	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Best studied and most easily accessible site of a forest and its forest floor fauna knocked over and buried by Taupo eruption 1800 years ago. National Importance.
ONF51		Rauroa Stream Jurassic fossils	North of north end of Awakino Gorge	Lot 1 DPS 79871	D - Robust exposures of geological material (non-coastal)	Rare sequence of middle Jurassic marine fossil faunas. Regional Importance.
ONF52		Reserve Cave	On either side of Tumutumu Road	Lot 3 DP 356799 Part Section 25 Block X Orahiri SD Section 1 SO 40772 Lot 1 DP 356799 Tumutumu Road	F - Caves	Contains thick ignimbrite deposits from Kidnappers Tephra eruptions 1.2 Ma. Paleokarst fragment, oldest known cave in the Waitomo area. National Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF53		Ruakuri natural bridge and karst	Just south of Waitomo	Part Sections 2A, 6, 7 Block X Orahiri SD	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Spectacular tourist features. High natural bridge with dog leg of Waitomo Stream passing through it. National Importance.
ONF54		Ruakuri Cave	Just south of Waitomo	Part Section 6 Block X Orahiri SD Section 22 Block X Orahiri SD Lot 1 DPS 80309 Waitomo A11A Block Ruakuri Road	F - Caves	Major tourist cave. Large stream passage. Speleothem assemblages. Historic tourist cave. Approx. 4 km of passage. Current tourism use. Horizontal stream system containing c. 4 km of passage in Oligocene limestone, some upper levels. National Importance.
ONF55		South Awakino Bluffs and waterfall	East side of SH3, just south of Awakino	Lot 1 DPS 21285 Section 2 SO 482206	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	One of most visible high waterfalls in District. Unusual bluffs of Miocene sandstone showing groundwater flowing through the sandstone and out along the bluff. Regional Importance.
ONF56		Southern Awakino Gorge Miocene unconformity on greywacke	On side of SH3	Part Mahoenui 4B Block State Highway 3	D - Robust exposures of geological material (non-coastal)	Excellent exposure of steeply dipping Murihiku Supergroup rocks containing rich Monotis beds unconformably overlain by Mokau sandstone. Regional Importance.
ONF57		Tawarau caves and karst	Mostly west of Tawarau River	Lot 1 DP 418282 Section 17 Block II Maungamangero SD Part Kinohaku West SS1 Block Part Section 5 Block XV Kawhia South SD Part Sections 6 & 12 Block XI Kawhia South SD Section 2 Block XIV Kawhia South SD	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Most extensive cave and karst system in North Island that is still under natural forest. Regional Importance.



Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
				Part Section 9 Block II Maungamangero SD Part Section 19 Block X Kawhia South SD Kinohaku West S1B2 Block Speedies Road Stream		
ONF58		Tawarau Falls	Tawarau River	Taumatatotara A5 (Residue) Block	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	25 m high cascade waterfall over Oligocene Te Kuiti Group rocks. Regional Importance.
ONF59		Te Maika Point Jurassic sequence and fossil forest	South head of Kawhia Harbour entrance	Lot 64 DPS 60648 Paper Road	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Second best Jurassic fossil forest in New Zealand (after Curio Bay). Stratotype of middle Triassic Te Maikan Stage. Mostly non-marine sedimentary sequence with tree stumps in-situ. National Importance.
ONF60		Ten Acre tomo and associated caves	At end of Mangaorongo Road	Sections 6, 7 Block II Awakino East SD Lot 1 DPS 87113 Mangaorongo Road	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	Impressive large collapse feature with associated caves. Regional Importance.
ONF61		Totara Point and Captain Kings Shell Bed Jurassic fossils	South coast of Kawhia Harbour	Part Section 36 Parawai MAORI TNSP Paper Road	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Lower part of stratotype of New Zealand Late Jurassic Heterian Stage, includes historically important Captain Kings Shellbed containing a rich bivalve and brachiopod fossils. National Importance.
ONF62		Totoro Gorge karst	On Mokau River upstream from Totoro Road	Lot 1 DPS 27278 Lot 1 DP 21072 Karuotewhenua B2B8B Block Wairoma Road River	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Easily accessible and one of the best examples of sculptured limestone karstic river gorges and adjacent areas in the District. Includes fluting, tors and canyons. Regional Importance.
ONF63		Troopers Road	Southwest of Troopers Road	Part Karuotewhenua 3C2B Block	F - Caves	One of the most extensive cave systems in North Island. Selenite needles, calcite

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
		Cave System (=Black system - F1, Fred, Virginia)		Lot 2 DP 435222 Lot 2 DP 11009 Lot 1 DP 9884 Part Kinohaku East 2No24C & 2No24D1 Blocks Lot 2 DPS 85156 Part Section 22 Block II Otanake SD Whiroroa 1 Block Troopers Road		speleothems. Major fossil deposits. High recreational value. National Importance.
ONF64		Waikawau Beach Miocene sediments	West coast cliffs for 2 km north of Waikawau River	Section 11 Block X Whareorino SD Paper Road	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Best and most easily accessible exposure through late Miocene sedimentary sequence in the Waikato Region deposited between 11 and 10 Myr ago. Regional Importance.
ONF65		Waikawau River meandering estuary	Lower 1 km of estuary	Kinohaku West E1C & E1D2A2 Blocks Part Kinohaku West E1E2 & E1F1 Blocks River	C - Dynamic landforms and features in the coastal zone	Some of best and most easily seen cut-off river meander loops in district at upper end of natural estuary. Regional Importance.
ONF66		Waipa River exhumed fossil forest buried by Taupo Eruption	True right bank of Waipa River	Rangitoto A41 Block River	E - Fragile exposures of geological material	Decapitated, charred and blown over tree trunks that were killed and buried by the ignimbrite flow from the Taupo Eruption 1800 years ago. Recently exhumed by river floods - some trunks stand tall on flood plain - several are still seen in terrace bank exposures buried by the ignimbrite. National Importance.
ONF67		Waipapa Road cave system	On both sides of end of Waipapa Road	Lot 1 DPS 69714 Lot 1 DPS 75255 Lot 1 DPS 83758 Kinohaku East 25B2B Block	F - Caves	Multiple caves in two systems. High recreational use. Speleothems include best calcified tree roots in district. Regional Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
				Sections 4, 6, 7 Block I Otanake SD Section 17 Block XIII Orahiri SD Waipapa Road		
ONF68		Waipuna polygonal karst	Both sides of Waipuna Road, Waitomo	Sections 4, 5, 6, 7 SO 432380 Ototoika B8 Block Lot 2 DP 523623 Lot 2 DP 470622 Part Lot 2 DP 28909 Lot 2 DPS 82515 Lot 2 DP 475252 Sections 8 & 9 Block XIII Orahiri SD Kinohaku East 1B2B1 Block Lot 1 DPS 86664 Waipuna Road Paper Road	A - Large landforms (non-coastal)	High-density deep polygonal karst over surface, disappearing streams and blind valleys. Temperate cockpit karst. Forested. National Importance.
ONF69		Waipuna Cave	East of Waipuna Road, Waitomo under forest	Lot 2 DP 470622 Part Lot 2 DP 28909 Lot 2 DP 523623	F - Caves	Only major cave in Waitomo area with forested catchment (this can affect speleothem growth, biota, sedimentation). Impressive speleothems. Regional Importance.
ONF70		Wairere Falls and Cave	West of Wairere bridge on Aria Road	Part Karuotewhenua B5A Block Aria Road Stream	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	Waterfall over basement greywacke with exposures of limestone, karst and a cave unconformably on top. Regional Importance.
ONF71		Wairere serpentinite, rodingite and rosenhahnite	Disused Wairere serpentinite quarry, Kohua Road	Aorangi B2B2B1 Block	D - Robust exposures of geological	Only exposure in North Island of Dun Mountain Ophiolite Terrane - serpentinite between Murihiku and Waipapa Terranes.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
					material (non-coastal)	Only known occurrence of rosenhahnite in New Zealand. Exposure of serpentinite faulted against Oligocene limestone. National Importance.
ONF72		Waitanguru Falls	On east side of Mangaotaki Road, 20 km from Piopio. In Waitanguru Scenic Reserve	Section 38 Block VI Maungamangero SD	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	One of the highest waterfalls over greywacke in the Waitomo District. Regional Importance.
ONF73		Waitomo Stream headwaters cave system (Waitomo master system cave)	West of Waipuna Road	Lot 1 DPS 83902 Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 DP 316928 Lot 2 DPS 80793 Lot 1 DPS 5385 Lot 2 DP 470622 Sections 5 & 6 SO 432380 Section 8 Block XIII Orahiri SD Kinohaku East 1B2B1 Block Lot 1 DPS 74884 Lot 1 DPS 86664 Lot 3 DP 493460 Part Lot 1 DPS 86555 Waipuna Road Paper Road	F - Caves	One of the longer caves in the North Island. High recreational and tourism use. Important speleothems (calcite (pearls), palygorskite), fossil deposits (best known Mappins Bush Moa). Consists of many medium length caves linked hydrologically. National Importance.
ONF74		Waitomo Glowworm Cave	Waitomo tourist cave	Hauturu East 8, 9, 11, 21 Blocks Section 10 Block X Orahiri SD Waitomo Village Road	F - Caves	Nationally important, internationally renowned tourist cave for its accessibility and glowworms. Good speleothems. National Importance.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
ONF75		Waitoru karst lake	South side of SH3, 8 km southwest of Piopio	Part Karuotewhenua B2B7C2A2 Block	B - Smaller more fragile landforms	One of most publicly visible sinkhole lakes in Waitomo District. Regional Importance.
ONF76		Whakapirau Road Jurassic fossils	Road cuttings on east side of Whakapirau Road	Lots 1 & 2 DPS 91613 Road reserve	D - Robust exposures of geological material (non- coastal)	Most accessible sequence of fossil-rich Jurassic in district. Regional Importance.

# SCHED9 –Landscapes of High Amenity Value | Ngā Nohopae Whare Ahurei

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
LHAV1		Kawhia Harbour	LHAV 1 Kawhia harbour relates to the more pasture dominated and inhabited eastern portion of LCU 1a.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Richly indented harbour coastline with rolling to steeply dissected lowland hill country backdrop. Coastline characterised by a mix of sandy beaches and mud flats interspersed with highly attractive and distinctive coastal cliffs and rock outcrops.</p> <p>Sites of geological significance including: Waiharakeke Bridge-Kinohaku (Jurassic sediments) and Puaroa Creek (Jurassic fossils).</p> <p>Areas of high-quality bush (identified as SNA). Habitat for threatened and at-risk flora and fauna.</p> <p>Kawhia harbour and its margins are habitat for many species of shore and wading birds, including threatened species such as such as black stilt, Australasian bittern, banded dotterel, banded rail, spotless crane and North Island fernbird. Other species include New Zealand dotterel, black-fronted tern and Caspian tern. The harbour is also used by international migrant species such as bar-tailed godwit, lesser knot, turnstone, Asiatic whimbrel and eastern curlew.</p> <p>Strongly tidal harbour setting.</p> <p>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Highly attractive panoramic coastal views to the area from the Kawhia harbour, Kawhia settlement, Whakapirau Road, the DoC track, the air and the surrounding rural and rural residential context. The complex arrangement of fingers of pastoral hill slopes and ridgelines interspersed with gully remnants and edged</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>with an intricate patterning of coastal vegetation around the indented harbour edges, all set within the context of the vast Kawhia harbour setting creates an attractive composition that is highly engaging.</p> <p>The generally low key, modest and informal character of built development means that it sits comfortably within the wider rural coastal outlook.</p> <p>The visibility of Mt Karioi and Pirongia, adds to the drama of the outlook in places.</p> <p>Generally high aesthetic values as a consequence of the perceptual values described above.</p> <p>A moderate-high degree of naturalness across much of the unit, as a consequence of the dominant influence of the low-intensity pastoral landscape. The low key, modest and informal character of built development means that it generally comprises a sympathetic element within this context.</p> <p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of the richly dissected landform patterning.</p> <p>Harbour and coastal margins strongly expressive of coastal processes.</p> <p>The highly tidal nature of the harbour and avifauna values imbue a high level of transient values.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Coastline richly endowed with cultural heritage sites.</p> <p><b>Harbour is the birthplace of Te Rauparaha (Ngāti Toa) who lived in the area until the 1920s when he and his tribe, along with Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Koata, migrated southwards.</b></p> <p>Some recreational values associated with the DoC track around the coastal edge and the adjacent harbour.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally, the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural landscape values.</li> </ol>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>b. The highly scenic qualities of the area as a consequence of: the complex arrangement of fingers of pastoral hill slopes and ridgelines interspersed with gully remnants and edged with an intricate patterning of coastal vegetation around the indented harbour edges, all set within the context of the vast Kawhia Harbour setting; the generally modest, low key and sympathetic character of existing built development; and the views across the harbour to Mt Karioi and Pirongia afforded from much of the area.</p> <p>The area stands apart from the more 'ordinary' working rural landscapes in the district (e.g. LCU 10 Central Rolling Lowlands and LCU 11 Eastern Hills) largely as a consequence of its almost unbroken visual connection to the highly scenic Kawhia harbour in combination with the scenic qualities of the area itself as described above. Whilst LHAV 1 stands apart from the more 'ordinary' working rural landscapes of the district, it is not assessed to qualify as Outstanding. The values of the area primarily derive from its scenic and aesthetic qualities which aligns it with an amenity landscape classification (that is valued for its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreation attributes) rather than as an ONL.</p>
LHAV2		Awakino Gorge	LHAV 2 Awakino Gorge relates to the gorge landform stretching from the south end of the Mahoenui Valley to the eastern end of the Awakino Valley.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Steeply incised gorge alongside the Awakino River. The rugged Mokau hill system and elevated terraces (LCU 6) frame the south side of the gorge, and similarly rugged hills and terraces associated with the southern foothills of the Herangi Range define the northern side.</p> <p>Spectacular limestone bluffs in places. Awakino Gorge Tunnel (Oligocene and Miocene record).</p> <p>Virtually all of the bush cover in the area is identified as SNA of Local or Regional Significance.</p>



Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>Convoluted course of the Awakino River runs alongside SH3.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable views of the river winding through the dramatic and richly textured bush-clad (gorge) cliffs, with spectacular views of limestone bluffs towering over the gorge in places.</p> <p>Markedly contrasting enclosed and (predominantly) densely vegetated character of this stretch of the highway serves to heighten its visual impression and appeal.</p> <p>Distinctive road tunnel through natural rock adds to the scenic/aesthetic appeal.</p> <p>At southern end of gorge, highly attractive and memorable views open up to the coast and Mt Taranaki.</p> <p>The large-scale and striking (predominantly) vegetation-clad cliff landforms and limestone bluffs create a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy. The convoluted nature of the route through the gorge promotes a sense of mystery.</p> <p>Close-range views of: the winding river flanked by richly textured native vegetation; the rock tunnel; and the towering bluffs serve to enrich the overall experience.</p> <p>The vivid contrast of the gorge with the more open valley landscapes at either end serves to heighten this experience.</p> <p>For southbound travellers, the gorge reads as somewhat of a <b>gateway to the 'wild west coast' and for northbound travellers</b>, the gorge reads as a gateway to the more sheltered and working rural landscapes associated with the lower portion of the Waikato region.</p> <p>Generally, a moderate to high degree of naturalness and remoteness as a consequence of: the dominant influence of the large-scale and dramatic vegetation-clad landforms that enclose the road corridor; and the limited extent of built development.</p> <p>The highway itself, presence of production forestry and, to a lesser degree, pasture cover contribute a moderating effect in this regard; however, it is fair to say that the generally quite modest</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>scale of the highway together with its winding character (such that long range views of the highway are not available) serves to limit its influence on the sense of naturalness associated with the unit.</p> <p>Memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values <b>discussed above and its identity as a 'gateway' highway corridor.</b> Bluff features and winding river expressive of landscape-shaping processes.</p> <p>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Awakino Gorge Tunnel.</p> <p>Awakino Gorge- scenic route.</p> <p>SUMMARY OF VALUES</p> <p>Generally, the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The highly scenic qualities of the gorge as a consequence of: the striking (predominantly) vegetation-clad gorge landforms and expressive limestone bluffs; the highly attractive and expressive winding river course alongside the road; the distinctive rock tunnel; the overall sense of mystery accruing from the convoluted nature of the road alignment through the gorge; and the enclosed and intimate character of the area arising from the landform and vegetation patterns, which is amplified by the contrasting more open landscapes at either end.</li> <li>The role the gorge plays as an attractive and <b>memorable 'gateway' landscape.</b></li> <li>A sense of naturalness and remoteness as a consequence of the relatively limited extent of built development (acknowledging the presence of the <b>SH3) and the area's aesthetic/scenic qualities.</b></li> <li>Its moderate - high ecological values.</li> </ol>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>An appreciable portion of the gorge is in bush cover, although there are sizeable areas of pasture and production forestry cover. Whilst these latter landcover types tend to be of lesser amenity value (than indigenous bush cover), the overall legibility of the gorge as a cohesive landscape means that it would be artificial to exclude these areas.</p> <p><b>The narrow gorge landform and 'gateway' character of the area</b> means that the area stands apart from the more ordinary working rural landscapes of the district.</p> <p>The values of the area primarily derive from its scenic and aesthetic qualities which aligns it with an amenity landscape classification (that is valued for its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreation attributes) rather than as an ONL.</p>
LHAV3		Limestone Country	LHAV 3 Limestone Country relates to much of LCU 13 Elevated Central Hills and Valleys throughout the central portion of the district that sit between the Herangi Ranges and rugged hills to the west, and the rolling lowland hills to the east (roughly following the course of SH3). It also captures the western portion of LCU 10 Central Rolling Lowlands where there is a proliferation of scenic features.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p><b>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly complex patterning of steeply incised hills, ridges and stream valleys.</p> <p>Numerous extremely high value limestone bluffs, rock outcrops, tomos and cave features throughout. Often within highly attractive bush setting or as highly sculptural elements within pastoral landscape.</p> <p>Virtually all of the bush cover in the area is identified as SNA of Local or Regional Significance.</p> <p>Highly complex patterning of streams throughout the unit.</p> <p>Several highly scenic waterfall features.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable close and mid-range rural views to: dramatic limestone bluffs, rock outcrops and landforms; intimate stream valleys and gorges (e.g. Totoro Gorge); and impressive waterfalls.</p> <p>Highly attractive and memorable views of large-scale bush-covered hills at varying ranges, including views to the Herangi Ranges.</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>Attractive rural views across low intensity farmland in which the complex landform patterns and arrangement of vegetation (exotic and indigenous) create a pleasing composition.</p> <p>Attractive rural views from highpoints on Te Anga Road and Troopers Road.</p> <p>Generally high aesthetic values as a consequence of the perceptual values described above.</p> <p>A moderate degree of naturalness across much of the unit, as a consequence of the dominant influence of the low intensity working rural landscape and, to a lesser extent, production forestry and the prevalence of tourism activities (signage, parking, traffic etc). The frequent occurrence of dramatic limestone bluffs and outcrops within the pastoral areas confers a sense of naturalness. In general, the relatively low-key built development character (outside of Waitomo Caves village) assists the perception of naturalness.</p> <p><b>Localised areas of higher naturalness on the more 'off the beaten track' unsealed roads towards the margins of the unit and in areas dominated by extensive tracts of bush cover.</b></p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Several scattered cultural sites throughout the unit.</p> <p>Very high public profile as a consequence of Waitomo Caves, numerous waterfalls and walkway features, local tourism operations, Te Araroa and scenic routes. The close proximity and relatively easy access of the unit to SH3 confers a higher public profile than, many other parts of the district.</p> <p>Very high recreational values associated with the as a result of the proliferation of a range of varied and highly engaging features including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible caves offering a wide range of recreational experiences on offer ranging from glow-worm boat tours to blackwater rafting and abseiling adventures.</li> <li>• Accessible limestone bluff and rock outcrops (and associated tourism facilities e.g. Hairy Feet).</li> </ul>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quad biking, rock climbing, clay bird shooting, heli flights and farms shows.</li> <li>• Te Araroa.</li> <li>• Numerous other tracks, including: the Gorge and Double Falls Tracks (south of Te Anga); the Mangaotaki Scenic Reserve; Waitanguru Falls; Ruakuri Walkway; Mangapohue Natural Bridge, Piripiri Caves, Marokopa Falls.</li> <li>• Several scenic routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Piopio – Waitanguru – Pungarehu - Mairoa Road. Features along the way include: numerous dramatic bluff and limestone outcrops with bush (including Hobbit filming location) along the highly attractive Mangaotaki Road between Piopio and Waitanguru; Mangaotaki Scenic Reserve walkway; and Waitanguru Falls.</li> <li>– Waitomo - Te Anga Road- Marokopa- Kiritehere – Pomarangai- Mangaotaki Road- Piopio. Features include: Marokopa Falls, Piripiri Caves, Mangapohue Natural Bridge; Ngahuinga Bluffs beside Te Anga; the sleepy old school NZ settlement of Te Anga.</li> <li>– Mahoenui - Aria - Piopio via Totoro Road (highly attractive and intimate, winding rural stream valley with numerous limestone bluff and rock outcrops) and Aria Road (attractive old school NZ rural settlement at Aria) passes through part of the unit. Features along the way include the Wairere Falls.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A high level of shared and recognised values as demonstrated by the popularity of the above recreational features.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p> <p>Generally, the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the very high biophysical values associated with the various karst and cave landform features and waterfalls scattered throughout the area.</li> <li>b. its moderate-high ecological values in places.</li> <li>c. the highly scenic qualities of the area as a consequence of: the attractive views of dramatic limestone bluffs, rock outcrops and landforms; intimate stream valleys and gorges; impressive waterfalls, bush clad hills and sculpted low intensity pastoral slopes and valleys.</li> <li>d. The very high recreational values (as described above).</li> <li>e. cultural landscape values.</li> </ul> <p>LHAV 3 includes the bush and pastoral areas in between the various karst and cave features. These areas display a level of <b>visual appeal in their own right and effectively form the 'glue'</b> between the more unique and dramatic limestone features, culminating in a highly attractive and generally cohesive <b>landscape character that stands apart from the more 'ordinary'</b> working rural landscapes in the district (e.g. LCU 11 Eastern Hills and the majority of LCU 10 Central Rolling Lowlands).</p> <p>The exception to this description is the northern portion of LHAV 3 adjoining the Otorohanga District where there is generally a paucity of karst and cave features. Here it is the dominance of very high-quality bush cover together with the recreational values of at least part of the area (e.g. Te Araroa Trail) and relatively limited extent of human modification that confers the aesthetic (and ecological) values such that the area for inclusion within LHAV 3.</p> <p>East of SH3 in the vicinity of Aria, it is the highly attractive patterning of the rolling lowlands, sculpted landforms, karst features, waterfalls and bush features interspersed with pasture that merit the inclusion of this part of LCU10 Central Rolling Lowlands within LHAV 3.</p> <p>Areas of LCU 13 Elevated Central Hills and Valleys excluded from LHAV3 include:</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The inland hills and valleys north, west and southwest of Te Anga where there is a general paucity of limestone features and high value bush cover;</li> <li>A central area roughly in the vicinity of Ngapaenga and Mairoa where again there is a general paucity of limestone features and high value bush cover;</li> <li>The very high value bush covered hills in the vicinity of Rock Peak that adjoin an ONL in the Otorohanga District – see ONL 5 Rock Peak.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst LHAV 3 stands apart from the more 'ordinary' working rural landscapes of the district, it is not assessed to qualify as Outstanding largely as a consequence of the influence that human modification (particularly in the form of buildings, pastoral farming and production forestry) exerts on the landscape character of the area. It is acknowledged that this is very finely balanced as clearly this part of the District plays a critical role in shaping the identity of the wider Waitomo area suggesting very high associative values. However overall it is considered that the values associated with this portion of the District more closely align with an amenity landscape (which are valued for their pleasantness, aesthetic coherence and cultural and recreation attributes), rather than as an ONL.</p>
LHAV4		Rangitoto Range and Waipa River	LHAV 4 Rangitoto Range and Waipa River relates to the bush covered southern slopes of the Rangitoto Range that fall within the District and the Waipa River together with its steep bush clad margins.	Landscape of High Amenity Value	<p>BIOPHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</p> <p>Steeply incised bush clad gorge alongside the Waipa River and rugged southern slopes of the Rangitoto Range. The latter form the eastern boundary of the King Country. Streams on the eastern slopes drain into the Waikato River.</p> <p>Spectacular limestone bluffs in places. Waipa River exhumed fossil forest</p> <p>Virtually all of the bush cover in the area is identified as SNA of National Significance. Habitat for threatened or at-risk species.</p>

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p><b>Endangered species present include North Island kōkako, kaka, whio falcon, North Island brown kiwi, blue duck, long tailed bat and Hochstetter's frog.</b></p> <p>Much of the area is in either DoC ownership or subject to QE II Covenant.</p> <p><b>PERCEPTUAL (SENSORY) ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>Attractive and memorable views of the rugged and dramatic large-scale bush-clad foothills and ridges and steeply incised river valleys from local roads and walking tracks (albeit noting the relatively limited extent of the latter). The continuity of bush cover together with the bold and sculpted landforms create a high level of aesthetic coherence.</p> <p>The dense and extensive bush mantle extending throughout area, <b>confers a strong sense of 'indigenous New Zealand'.</b></p> <p>High degree of naturalness as a consequence of: the dominant influence of the rugged bush-clad terrain; river gorge landforms, the relatively inaccessibility of the area; and the generally very limited level of human modification evident.</p> <p>Memorable landscape as a consequence of the perceptual values discussed above.</p> <p>Complex ridgeline patterns and winding streams expressive of landscape shaping processes.</p> <p>A relatively high level of legibility as a consequence of the bold landform and watercourse patterns.</p> <p>Generally a high perception of remoteness/wilderness as a consequence of the strongly endemic character of the landcover, the very limited level of built development and the inaccessibility of the area.</p> <p><b>ASSOCIATIVE ATTRIBUTES AND VALUES</b></p> <p>The Waipa River is a tupuna (ancestor), a taonga (treasure), and the mauri (life force) of Ngati Maniapoto.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY OF VALUES</b></p>



Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Site Type	Description of Values
					<p>Generally, the area qualifies as an Amenity Landscape as a consequence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. its high to very high ecological values;</li> <li>b. The highly scenic qualities of the area as a consequence of: the attractive views of the rugged and sculpted bush clad hills river gorge landforms with little human modification evident; and</li> <li>c. the cultural landscape values associated with the area.</li> </ul> <p>The extent of LHAV 4 is defined by bush edges. NB LHAV 4 adjoins a LHAV in the Otorohanga District throughout the balance of the Rangitoto Range (to the north).</p>

# SCHED12 – Karst Overlay | Ngā Paparahi Wai o Waitomo

*Note: For some sites in the karst overlay, the scheduled area does not match the legal parcel boundaries. Please see the planning maps to determine the area of a site that the listing applies to.*

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
KO01		Aussie	Northern Edge of Taumatamaire Road about 1.9Km along the road	Part Section 3 Block V Awakino East SD	Karst overlay	Speleothems. Fossilised fish. Recreational use.
KO02		<b>Black's System</b> Taumatamaire Road (Blacks Cave, Breakwater hole, Groove)	Southern edge of Taumatamaire Road about 5Km along the road	Section 3 Block IV Awakino North SD Part Section 1 Block IX Awakino North SD Taumatamaire Road	Karst overlay	High recreational use, significant speleothems, length. Deep caves in strongly <b>tilted limestones</b> . Includes <b>Black's Cave</b> , Breakwater Hole, Groove.
KO03		Blizzard	South west off the end of Haku Road	Lot 1 DPS 88201	Karst overlay	Gypsum deposits.
KO04		Broken Hill System	217 Mangakowhai Road	Lots 1 & 2 DP 432352 Lot 1 DPS 1484 Part Kinohaku East 3D1A & 3D1B Blocks Sections 1 & 4 Block IX Otanake SD Mangakowhai Road	Karst overlay	Very large passage. On greywacke contact. Significant length.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
KO05		Digme-Camelot Cave	Oparure Road, Graymont Quarry	Lots 1 & 2 DPS 77130 Lots 1 & 3 DPS 74022 Lot 2 DPS 33442 Pakeho A18 Block	Karst overlay	Only example of gypsum rope in New Zealand (Digme). Part of largest autogenic karst system known in North Island. Troglodytic biota. Two caves. Large streamway (Camelot).
KO06		Ecch	Between Totoro and Potaka Roads	Lot 4 DP 381582 Part Sections 7, 8, 12, 24 Block IX Totoro SD Sections 4, 5, 6, 7 SO 12488 Potaka Road Paper Road	Karst overlay	Significant length (3.7km) and recreational use.
KO07		<b>King George's</b> Cavern & Sid's Surmise	1221 State Highway 3, Plopio	Part Section 5 Block III Awakino East SD Lot 1 DPS 57443 Part Section 5 Block III Awakino East SD Part Karuotewhenua B2B2 Block	Karst overlay	North-east of the lower Mangaotaki Gorge, south west of Paemako. Moderately good representative cave for geological significance and representativeness, an occasionally visited recreational cave, and the cave has a good state of preservation. King George Cavern has some flowstone; both wet and dry passages; some muddy floor sections. Running and stagnant water. Sid's Surmise is a fairly short stream passage cave. Naturally Uncommon fauna species and Notable species are known at this site. Naturally uncommon cave, cliffs and cracks, cave entrances are present.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
KO08		Lee's Swamp/General Ward	Both sides of Fullerton Road from subdivision going South	Lot 2 DPS 44310 Lot 2 DP 475517 Lots 1, 2, 3 410653 Lot 4 DP 445966 Lot 8 DP 469447 Pehitawa A1B2A & A1B2B Blocks Part Pehitawa A1B1 Block Sections 9, 14 Block XIV Orahiri SD Fullerton Road	Karst overlay	Recreational use. Cave crosses drainage divides
KO09		Maniapoto	Western edge of Ravensdown Quarry, Mangarino Road	Part Pukeroa Hangatiki A55 Block Pukeroa Hangatiki A56 & A58 Blocks	Karst overlay	Significance to Māori. (NB: this rating refers to karst significance, not cultural significance).
KO10		Marmont's	1340-1342 State Highway 3, Mahoenui	Lot 1 DPS 84881 Lot 1 DPS 82678 Part Lot 1 DPS 90992 Puketiti 2B2E2A Block Part Puketiti 2B2C & 2B2D Blocks State highway 3	Karst overlay	Length. Recreational use.
KO11		Matawhero	North west of end of Wall Road	Lot 1 DP 12503 Puketiti No 4 Block Puketiti 3B2C1 & 3B2D Blocks	Karst overlay	Length approximately 2km
KO12		Mein Hole Cave System	East of Mangaorongo Road and Mangaorongo Stream	Lot 2 DP 10929 Part Lot 1 DPS 90992 Section 20 Block II Awakino East SD Puketiti 3A, 3B2A, 3B2B Blocks	Karst overlay	Length over 4km long. Numerous speleothems and excellent fossil whale remains.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
KO13		Moe-Ana	North West along paper road from end of Ngatapuwa Road	Section 9 Block VI Orahiri SD Uekaha A15D2D2 & A15D2C Blocks Paper Road	Karst overlay	Two systems. Approximately 2.5km long. Partly still under native vegetation.
KO14		Murder Canyon/ Mahoenui Natural Bridge/ Hangover Hole	Just north of SH3 – Taumatamair Road intersection	Part Sections 2 & 3 Block V Awakino East SD	Karst overlay	One of the longest shafts in the North Island. Recreational use. Very thin spectacular natural bridge.
KO15		Phloughte-Agamemnon	1023 Mangaotaki Road	Lot 1 DPS 88201 Puketiti 5D Block Part Section 2 Block XI Maungamangero SD	Karst overlay	Two systems. Long caves
KO16		Piopio Water	End of Kuratahi Street	Lots 1 & 2 DP 443733 Lot 2 DP 399496 Kaingapipi 9B, 9A2, 11E, 11F, 11G1A, 11G2, 1G3 Blocks Part Kaingapipi 6A & 10 Blocks Part Kaingapipip 11 (Roadway) Block Kuratahi Street	Karst overlay	Source of Piopio water supply.
KO17		Plumbers Pass	Approximately 1km along Pehtana Road	Lots 1 & 2 DP 475252 Lot 2 DPS 76729 Section 18 Block XIII Orahiri SD Pehtana Road	Karst overlay	Recreational use, Gypsum.
KO18		Pompeii - Long John	East off the end of Mangaorong Road	Lot 1 DPS 88201 Puketiti 3A & 4C Blocks	Karst overlay	Long system.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
KO19		Rauroa System	Both sides of Taumatamair Road, approximately 3.3Km along the road	Lots 1 & 2 DPS 81221 Taumatamair Road	Karst overlay	Unusual speleothems (red). Length.
KO20		Rimu-Togyp System	North west of Taumatamair Road approximately 6.5Km along the road	Sections 2 & 3 Block IV Awakino North SD	Karst overlay	Long cave, significant recreational use, speleothems. Waterfall exits into gorge.
KO21		Shangri La	235 Fullerton Road	Lot 1 DP 32175 Lot 1 DPS 74483 Lot 3 DP 475517 Lots 1, 2, 3 DP 409684 Part Lot 1 DPS 76811 Section 4 SO 304746 Fullerton Road	Karst overlay	2km long. Recreational use.
KO22		Skyline Cave	Just south of Taumatamair Road about 10Km along the road	Lot 1 DPS 85599 Part Section 1 Block IX Awakino North SD	Karst overlay	Significant speleothems (including oolites), fossil deposits, recreational use, length. Highest altitude cave in region at 320 m ASL.
KO23		Spotlight	Both sides of Totoro Road about 4Km along the road	Lot 1 DP 15366 Mahoenui 3B3B, 3B4B2 Blocks Part Mahoenui 3B3C, 3B4B1 Blocks Totoro Road	Karst overlay	Major fossil deposits.
KO24		Taumatatotara karst/stream cave	On Otorhanga District boundary between Taharoa and Hauturu Roads	Taumatatotara A5 (Residue) Block	Karst overlay	Large stream cave. Largest stalactite in region.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
KO25		Te Anaroa Cave	Both sides of Fullerton road about 6.8Km along the road	Lot 1 DP 461431 Lot 2 DP 515476 Waitomo A8B & A14D Blocks Fullerton Road	Karst overlay	Tourist cave. Fossil deposits. Speleothems.
KO26		Te Koots Sewer	Just north of Walker Road about 2Km along the road	Lot 2 DP 487148 Lot 2 DP 412871 Lot 2 DPS 84113 Lot 2 DPS 89231 Lots 2 & 4 DPS 80721 Taipahi A1 & A2 Blocks Kaingaike A4 Block Te Kahekeheke 1 Block ML 11384	Karst overlay	Only extensive cave in eastern region. Length 3.3km
KO27		Thistlebob-Maui	East off the end of Mangaorongo Road	Puketiti 3A, 3B2B, 3B2D Blocks	Karst overlay	Long system.
KO28		Trespasser's West	Between Mangaorongo Road and State Highway 3	Part Lot 1 DPS 90992 Puketiti 3B2B, 3B2D Blocks	Karst overlay	Excellent speleothem formation
KO29		<b>Verry's</b> Disappointment	East of Haku Road about 4Km along the road	Lot 1 DPS 88201 Sections 8, 11, 20, 21 Block X Maungamangero SD Sections 11 & 12 Block XI Maungamangero SD	Karst overlay	Potentially long system.
KO30		Whispering Pot System	East off the end of Ngatapuwa Road	Uekaha A4, A5, A9, A12B3B, A15A, A15B, A15C2 Blocks Section 7 Block VI Orahiri SD	Karst overlay	Several caves. Cultural significance, fossil deposits
KO1-C		Kokakoroa-Mangapohue polygonal karst (catchment)		See Planning Maps	Karst overlay	Extensive area of polygonal; karst with some subsurface caves.

Unique Identifier	Map Ref	Site Name	Location	Legal Description	Site Type	Description of Values
KO2-C		Mangapu Cave System catchment		See Planning Maps	Karst overlay	Added to protect the cave system downstream.
KO3-C		Mangawhitikau Cave System catchment		See Planning Maps	Karst overlay	Added to protect the cave system downstream.
KO4-C		Troopers Road Cave System catchment		See Planning Maps	Karst overlay	Added to protect the cave system from sediment runoff.
KO5-C		Waitomo caves catchment		See Planning Maps	Karst overlay	This is the most important, because it can be justified in terms of its value for the tourist business in the Glowworm Cave and at the same time enclose many other important sites in the Waitomo basin.



## 8. Appendix 3 – Section 32AA Evaluation

1. A section 32AA evaluation is only required for any changes that are proposed to the provisions of this plan since the original section 32 evaluation report for the proposal was completed. The section 32AA evaluation must be undertaken at a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the changes.

### Amendment of the application of wider plan provisions

2. This chapter does not require the relevant objectives and policies of part 3 to be **considered or “all” the rules to be considered** when assessing the activity as many will be irrelevant to an application. This wording was erroneously included. RMA schedule 1, clause 16 enables a local authority to make an amendment to its proposed plan, without using the process in schedule 1, to alter any information, where such an alteration is of minor effect, *or to correct any minor errors*. Using RMA schedule 1, clause 16 the Panel has directed that the following amendments are made:

#### Objectives & Policies

*Refer also to the relevant objectives in Part 2 District - Wide Matters ~~and Part 3 – Area Specific Matters~~*

#### Rules

The rules that apply to activities in natural features and landscapes are contained in the tables listed below. To undertake any activity, it must comply with ~~all~~ the rules listed in:

- NFL - Table 1 - Activities rules; and
- NFL - Table 2 - Performance Standards; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 2 District-wide matters; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 3 Area Specific Matters.

3. There is also scope to make these amendments under BP Oil New Zealand Limited and Z Energy Limited (the Fuel Companies) submission to make any alternative or consequential relief as required to give effect to this submission, including any consequential relief required in any other sections of the proposed plan that are not specifically subject of this submission but where consequential changes are required to ensure a consistent approach is taken throughout the document.

### Provisions not requiring an evaluation

4. **Please note that references to ‘plantation forestry’ in this plan have been updated to refer to ‘commercial forestry’ to respond to the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017.**
- NFL-P1. Ensure the values and character of the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:
- .....
2. Ensuring the location, scale, materials, design, colour and grouping of buildings and structures ~~and infrastructure~~ avoid

adverse effects on the values and character of outstanding natural features and landscapes; and

.....

11. Network utilities are managed in accordance with NU-P12.

5. An amendment to NFL-P1 removes the potential for duplication of policy provisions. NU-P12 provides a policy approach for regionally significant infrastructure within overlays, scheduled sites and features. The network utilities chapter provides the appropriate policy and rule policy framework for considering network utilities in overlays, scheduled sites and features. The potential policy duplication in the natural features and landscapes chapter requires a cross reference to NU-P12 at NFL-P1.11. The amendments are for clarification purposes and provide direction to plan users only. A section 32AA evaluation is not required.

## Amendment of the application of wider plan provisions

3. This chapter does not require any relevant provision of Part 2 or Part 3 of the plan to be considered when assessing the activity. This was erroneously included. Using RMA schedule 1, clause 16 the Panel has directed that the following bullet points are removed from the chapter:
- Any relevant provision in Part 2 District-Wide Matters; and
  - Any relevant provision in Part 3 Area Specific Matters.

## Policies

- NFL-P4. Maintain and where practicable, enhance the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value during subdivision, land use and development by:
1. Ensuring that the effects of any activity which could compromise the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value are minimised; and
  2. Ensuring that buildings, structures and infrastructure are integrated into landscapes of high amenity value to minimise, to the maximum extent practicable, any visual impacts; and
  3. Managing the adverse effects of earthworks for buildings, driveways, new tracks and farm quarries through appropriate subdivision and development design; and
  4. Ensuring developments in locations that are of significance to mana whenua appropriately assess those effects and any resulting development is managed in a way that protects the values of the site; and
  5. Minimising the removal of indigenous vegetation as far as practicable; and
  6. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established farming activities. ~~and~~
  7. ~~Providing for the continued operation, maintenance and repair of lawfully established renewable electricity generation activities.~~

NFL-PX. Maintain and where practicable, enhance the qualities and values of the landscapes of high amenity value, while providing for:

1. The continued operation, maintenance and repair and minor upgrading of lawfully established renewable electricity generation activities; and
2. Nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and industry, and for those activities associated with significant mineral resources; and
3. The recognition of the positive benefits of new renewable electricity generation activities.

#### Other reasonably practicable options

6. An alternative option would be to not provide a policy position on regionally significant matters and renewable energy. Another option would be to retain the policy as notified, but this could create unnecessary constraints on those activities and may not fully provide for national and regional direction.
7. The proposed approach separates out the matters and duplicates the new policy in the energy chapter to ensure the provisions are applied consistently. This is the most balanced and context-appropriate option.

#### Effectiveness and Efficiency

8. The proposed amendments to NFL-P4 and the addition of NFL-PX are effective in aligning the district plan approach to high amenity landscapes with the Waikato Regional Policy Statement and providing for RMA section 7(c) and 7(j). NFL-P4 is reframed to ensure that activities compromising landscape values are avoided rather than simply minimised, strengthening protection and better reflecting the obligation to maintain rural character and naturalness.
9. NFL-PX complements this by identifying the operational needs of renewable energy, regionally and nationally significant infrastructure and lawfully established activities, providing balance and enabling appropriate functional activities to continue in these landscapes. This approach is efficient as it enables consistency when applying the landscape policy framework and it provides for existing infrastructure. It clarifies expectations for plan users and helps avoid litigation over policy ambiguity.

#### Costs and Benefit Assessment

10. The primary benefit of the proposed changes and the new policy is the strengthened alignment with the direction to maintain and enhance the rural character and naturalness of high amenity landscapes. This policy supports landscape protection at an appropriate level and provides clearer grounds for decision-making where adverse effects may arise. It also improves transparency for mana whenua, landowners and infrastructure providers on how landscape values will be managed.
11. There are limited additional costs expected. The majority of activities provided for in NFL-PX would require a resource consent within a landscape of high amenity value. Under NFL-P4 some development proposals may need to relocate or redesign in these landscapes. However, these costs are justified by the importance of maintaining amenity landscape values in the long-term. NFL-PX provides balance by recognising key infrastructure and established rural activities. Overall, the benefits of a consistent, aligned approach to landscape management outweighs the limitations.

## Risk of Acting or Not Acting

12. The risk of acting is low. The amendments are based on national and regional direction and provide a balanced framework that integrates protection of landscape values with operational needs of existing and regionally significant activities. The amendments also reduce risk of misinterpretation and policy inconsistency. The risk of not acting is that the plan will not appropriately provide for some activities and fail to meet minimum requirements for others, resulting in cumulative degradation of high amenity landscapes.

## Decision about the Most Appropriate Option

13. The proposed amendments to NFL-P4 and addition of NFL-PX are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA. They provide for the ongoing protection and enhancement of valued landscape areas, clarify policy intent, and ensure the district plan is consistent with higher order regional planning documents and the RMA. They also appropriately balance landscape protection with recognition of essential infrastructure and rural activities. The policies align to NFL-O4.

- NFL-P5. Recognise, protect, and where practicable, enhance the values of the karst overlay by:
1. Ensuring that the effects of any activity which could compromise the values of the karst overlay are avoided in the first instance, and where this is not practicable, minimised; and
  2. Managing the adverse effects of earthworks through appropriate development design, mitigation measures and rehabilitation; and
  3. Avoiding as far as practicable, any activity, particularly vegetation clearance and large-scale earthworks including quarrying activities, where these will adversely affect the values of the karst systems or features; and
  4. Avoiding developments in locations that are of significance to mana whenua to the maximum extent practicable; and
  5. Minimising the removal of indigenous vegetation; and
  6. Providing for plantation forestry only where there is a clear and on-going land stability benefit and the ensuing operations do not significantly detract from the values of the karst overlay; and
  7. Providing for the continued operation of lawfully established farming activities; and
  8. Providing for the removal of non-significant indigenous vegetation in the rural production zone where the effects of clearance do not adversely affect the values of the karst systems or features.

## Other reasonably practicable options

14. An alternative option would be to simplify the policy by removing specific references to the rural production zone and rely on broader earthworks or biodiversity policies elsewhere in the plan. However, such an approach would risk under-representing both the unique values of the karst overlay and its interaction with the rural production zone. Another option would be to elevate the avoidance threshold across all activities. The change to NFL-P5.4 which

combines avoidance where necessary with case-specific management and flexibility for low-risk activities, is considered to be the most balanced option.

#### Effectiveness and efficiency

15. The policy is effective in responding to the ecological, hydrological, and geological values of karst systems. It also allows a case-by-case approach to situations where lower risk activities can be undertaken without triggering an **absolute 'avoid'** by enabling other approaches such as mitigation, compensation or offset to be considered as appropriate. This tiered and tailored approach provides regulatory efficiency.
16. The amendment to NFL-P5.3 duplicates the policy's provisions, but only in order **to direct the interpretation of the policy's provisions** to an extent. The policy did **not seek a 'hard avoid' and this minor amendment clarifies that intent.**

#### Costs and benefits

17. The benefit of the policy is the appropriate management and protection of the unique environmental and cultural values of the karst overlay. It seeks to reduce the likelihood of irreversible effects on sensitive karst landscapes, such as hydrological changes, sedimentation, or loss of indigenous habitat. It also provides support for mana whenua values.
18. Costs may arise from restrictions on certain forms of development, particularly where alternative sites or mitigation options are limited. However, the policy still allows these activities where they do not undermine the karst values or where benefits are demonstrated. The policy seeks a balance between protection and land use flexibility while maintaining environmental integrity.

#### Risk of acting or not acting

19. The risk of acting is low, as the policy is targeted to an identified overlay area and aligns with broader landscape and ecological protection principles. It strengthens the resilience of planning decisions in an area where the cumulative and long-term effects of vegetation clearance and land disturbance are difficult to reverse. The risk of not acting includes degradation or loss of karst features through piecemeal development, erosion, sedimentation and loss of cultural and ecological values. The policy is a necessary means to evaluate and manage the unique issues and effects associated with these landscapes.

#### Decision about the most appropriate option

20. The proposed policy is the most appropriate option to achieve the purpose of the RMA. It provides strong and targeted protection of karst values while recognising the role of rural production and forestry where effects are appropriately managed.

	The rules apply to all zones	The rules apply to all zones except Te Maika precinct (PREC7)	The rules apply to all zones except the rural production zone & Aria settlement zone	
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R4.	Any <a href="#">building or structure</a> that is greater than 8 m in height and/or greater than 300 m <sup>2</sup> in size.			
	NC: Category F PR: Category A,B,C,D,E	DIS	RDIS	N/A see zone rules

### Effectiveness and Efficiency

21. The amendment to NFL-R4 improves the effectiveness of the rule by ensuring that both large buildings and large structures are managed where they may impact visually sensitive landscapes. The inclusion of structures is a logical extension, recognising that infrastructure such as renewable energy components or agricultural facilities can have effects comparable to buildings in terms of visual dominance or landscape disruption.
22. The rule is efficient in maintaining a tiered activity status that reflects the relative sensitivity of each landscape category. It allows for development in lower-sensitivity areas through the restricted discretionary pathway, while retaining discretionary status and higher in more sensitive landscape or features. The integration of height and footprint thresholds are measurable, making the rule straightforward to implement and enforce.

### Costs and Benefit Assessment

23. The primary benefit of the amendment is greater consistency in landscape management by applying controls equally to large structures and buildings. This eliminates potential gaps where structures could have otherwise been established without appropriate scrutiny.
24. The costs relate to a slight increase in the number of activities that may require consent, particularly for infrastructure providers or agricultural operators using non-building structures exceeding the thresholds. However, these costs are offset by the clarity and fairness introduced into the rule, and the retained ability to seek consent through a proportionate pathway. Overall, the amendment provides improved certainty without creating an undue compliance burden.

### Risk of Acting or Not Acting

25. The risk of acting is low. The rule amendment is clear, measurable, and easy to **administer. It strengthens the district plan's ability to manage cumulative visual effects** and avoids unintentional omissions in regulatory coverage. The risk of not acting includes the potential for large, visually dominant structures to be **established without adequate landscape assessment, undermining the plan's intent to manage development in sensitive landscapes.**

## Decision about the Most Appropriate Option

26. The amendment to NFL-R4 is the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA. It improves the consistency and coverage of landscape protection provisions by recognising that both large buildings and structures can significantly affect landscape character. The activity status hierarchy remains **intact, and the addition enhances the rule's effectiveness without introducing complexity or over-regulation.**

The rules apply to all zones				
Rule	Outstanding natural features	Outstanding natural landscapes	Landscapes of high amenity value	Karst overlay
NFL-R16.	Creation of new entrances into caves, <a href="#">structures</a> within caves or other modifications to cave features			
	NC	<del>NC</del> <a href="#">DLS</a>	DIS	<del>NC</del> <a href="#">DLS</a>
NFL-R17.	Any <a href="#">earthworks</a> or clearance of vegetation (other than plant pest species, wilding pines, or when required in emergency situations such as the recovery of stock) within a 20 m radius of an entry or opening into any cave or sinkhole			
	NC	<del>NC</del> <a href="#">DLS</a>	DIS	<del>NC</del> <a href="#">DLS</a>
<p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 in the outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes and in the karst overlay.</i></p> <p><i><a href="#">Note: Where vegetation clearance is proposed in a significant natural area the provisions in the ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter apply.</a></i></p> <p><i><a href="#">Note: For the avoidance of doubt fencing to protect a karst feature and associated digging holes for fence posts within the 20m radius is permitted.</a></i></p>				

## Effectiveness and Efficiency

27. The inclusion of a note under NFL-R17 referencing the Ecosystems and Indigenous **Biodiversity chapter increases the rule's effectiveness by improving** plan user awareness of other provisions that apply to vegetation clearance. It reinforces the relationship between landscape management and biodiversity protection, ensuring that users are directed to the full suite of applicable provisions when proposing earthworks or vegetation clearance near sensitive karst features. It also clarifies that fencing is permissible around these features.
28. The amendment is efficient in that it reduces the activity status but retains the appropriate controls. The notes provide a direct cross-reference that aids interpretation and reduces the risk of plan users overlooking relevant biodiversity provisions.

## Costs and Benefit Assessment

29. The benefit of the proposed notes are improved clarity and administrative efficiency. The reduction in activity status still ensures a comprehensive environmental assessment is undertaken. There are no identifiable costs

associated with the amendment. It does impose slightly reduced regulation as well as highlighting existing requirements already set out elsewhere in the plan. As such, the amendment presents only benefit rather than regulatory burden.

### Risk of Acting or Not Acting

30. The risk of acting is minimal. The notes are non-regulatory and purely advisory in nature. The activity status reduction still supports good environmental outcomes without adding complexity. The risk of not acting includes reduced awareness of other plan provisions, which could result in incomplete applications or missed biodiversity considerations.

### Decision about the Most Appropriate Option

31. The addition of the notes and reduction in activity status are the most appropriate option. The notes clarify **the plan's provisions and assist** interpretation. The activity status amendment enhances implementation without altering the substantive regulatory framework and should support better compliance and environmental decision-making.

NFL-R20.	Plantation forestry afforestation
<p>Activity Status: PER</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In outstanding natural landscapes other than the western coast outstanding natural landscape, the afforestation must not exceed 2 ha of exotic plantation forestry per holding per calendar year; or</li> <li>2. In the western coast outstanding natural landscape, the afforestation must not exceed 5 ha of exotic plantation forestry per holding per calendar year;</li> </ol> <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>3. In all outstanding natural landscapes, there is no limit on the amount of indigenous plantation forestry planted per holding per calendar year; and</del></li> <li>4. Afforestation must be located at least 10 m from the edge of any water body as measured from the bankfull channel width (see <a href="#">NATC – Figure 1</a>); and</li> <li>5. Afforestation must not occur within 20 m from the open coast as measured from the toe of the nearest natural bank adjoining the sea, or where that is not able to be defined, from the edge of common terrestrial vegetation.</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.</i></p>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS</p> <p>Matters over which discretion is restricted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The effects of the location, layout, and extent of planting including the arrangement, distribution and choice of species on landscape values; and</li> <li>(b) Whether the afforestation detracts from the outstanding natural landscape; and</li> <li>(c) Whether the afforestation is setback from riparian and coastal margins; and</li> <li>(d) The extent to which existing vegetation is retained in order to mitigate the effects of streambank and slope erosion, sedimentation, water quality degradation and loss of indigenous species habitat; and</li> <li>(e) The location, timing, design and density of soil disturbance and vegetation removal activities and any rehabilitation measures proposed; and</li> <li>(f) Effects on the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with the site and any <b>wāhi tapu</b> or other taonga affected by the activity; and</li> <li>(g) The benefits of afforestation in respect of slope stability or preventing exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and</li> <li>(h) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate damage to riparian vegetation or soil; and</li> </ol>



<p><i>Note: See the rules in the <a href="#">ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity chapter</a> if the activity is undertaken within a significant natural area.</i></p>	<p>(i) Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of the activity on outstanding natural landscapes.</p>
--	---

## Effectiveness and Efficiency

32. NFL-R20.3 which references indigenous plantation forestry, is deleted so that the rule applies equally to all plantation forestry. While indigenous forest may look more in keeping with outstanding natural landscapes, the effects at the harvesting stage if clear felling (rather than selective felling) occurs, are the same. The rule is therefore now more effective in managing the visual, ecological, and cultural effects of afforestation within outstanding natural landscapes. It effectively prevents cumulative degradation of landscape character.
33. The rule is efficient in that it enables a permitted activity pathway for afforestation where strict conditions are met, reducing consenting burden while appropriately upholding high landscape values. The restricted discretionary activity status ensures that non-compliant activities can still be assessed on a case-by-case basis with specific, relevant matters of discretion.

## Costs and Benefit Assessment

34. The rule provides substantial benefits by protecting the integrity of outstanding natural landscapes from inappropriate commercial forestry. It enables clarity about permissible activity thresholds, and the limits on commercial afforestation reduce the risk of significant visual or ecological degradation.
35. Although there may be moderate costs for landowners due to the afforestation limits—particularly those pursuing larger-scale exotic forestry operations—these are offset by the ability to seek restricted discretionary consent for well-designed proposals. Overall, the benefits of managing land use pressure and protecting landscape values significantly outweigh the limited regulatory and administrative costs in outstanding natural landscapes.

## Risk of Acting or Not Acting

36. The risk of acting is low. The thresholds are measurable and tailored to the receiving environment. The risk of not acting could include cumulative and irreversible degradation of landscape values through commercial forestry spread, and misalignment with national environmental standards.

## Decision about the Most Appropriate Option

37. The proposed rule structure is the most appropriate option. It recognises the need to balance productive land use as commercial forestry with protection of outstanding natural landscapes. The permitted thresholds and restricted discretionary framework provide a clear, proportionate regulatory pathway that supports sustainable land management and the values of the coastal and high value landscape areas.