

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL VALUES

HH – Historic Heritage

HH-APP3 – Criteria for Assessing the Significance of Natural Areas

Refer GEN-AC1 to GEN-AC25 and ER-CR4.

Purpose of Plan Criteria

1. *Council* will use the criteria set out below to:
2. Help assess applications for assistance with fencing and enhancement of particular *natural areas* under *Council's* proposed heritage incentives programme.
3. Assess requests from landowners and others to include specific *natural areas* in HH-APP1, to protect any *natural area* via covenant under the Reserves Act 1978, or to place a heritage order over a particular area.
4. Assess whether an esplanade strip for conservation purposes is warranted in terms of ER-CR2 to ER-CR6.
5. Assess applications for discretionary or non-complying land use or subdivision consents which have potential *effects* on *natural areas*, including applications to modify the areas listed in HH-APP2 under the Historic Heritage Chapter. (Refer also GEN-AC13).
6. Assess applications for subdivision consent where the Plan's rules require protection of a *natural area* as a condition of approval (Refer SUB-R13 and SUB-ST26).
7. Consider acquiring *natural areas* depending on the merits of the particular case.

Criteria

Whether the *natural area* concerned:

1. Contains indigenous ecosystems that are poorly represented in the ecological district*.
2. Contains an indigenous ecosystem that is typical of the character of the ecological district.

3. Contains associations of indigenous species which are unusual for their abundance or diversity within the ecological district.
4. Supports ecosystems or indigenous species that are rare, vulnerable, or endangered within an ecological district or nationally (including areas of exotic vegetation).
5. Forms part of a complex of habitat which aids the maintenance or recovery of threatened species, e.g. is part of a linking corridor or buffer area.
6. Makes an important contribution towards the habitat requirements of indigenous species other than those regarded as threatened.
7. Is largely in its natural state.
8. Has a significant role in linking *natural areas* by providing part of a corridor or buffer zone between other *natural areas* or the coast.
9. Contains physical landforms or geology which is nationally or regionally uncommon.
10. Is of a sufficient size for the natural processes occurring there to be ecologically self-sustaining, or have the potential to reach this state.
11. Has met the criteria to be set aside under covenant or statute for preservation or protection, or identified as a Recommended Area for Protection (RAP) or *Site of Special Biological Interest* (SSBI) by the Department of Conservation.
12. Has significant landscape, scenic, recreational or aesthetic qualities.
13. Has potential for habitat or ecosystem restoration, including the possibility of expanding its size for regeneration, or
14. Has conservation benefits such as the maintenance of water quality or in-stream habitat, or soil conservation benefits.

The areas listed in HH-APP2 all meet these criteria to varying degrees. The Category A forest areas have been identified by DoC's RAP survey as being the most significant among them.

*Ecological districts are distinguished by a combination of factors, including climate, geology, landform, soils and biological features that form a recognisable ecological pattern different to that of neighbouring areas. The Manawatū District *Council's* area includes part of five ecological districts, namely the Foxton (sand country), Manawatū Plains, Rangitikei (hill country), North Manawatū Gorge, and Ruahine ecological districts.