

25G Assessment of Ecological Significance

An assessment of the ranking of an ecological feature, assessments of significance and ranking shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Contain critical, endangered, vulnerable, or rare taxa, taxa of indeterminate threatened status (sensu International Union for Conservation of Nature definitions).
2. Contain indigenous or endemic taxa that are threatened or rare in Northland.
3. Contain the best representative examples in an ecological district of a particular habitat type.
4. Have high density of taxa or habitat types for the ecological district.
5. Form ecological buffers, linkages or corridors to other areas of significant vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
6. Contain habitat types that are rare in the ecological district.
7. Support good populations of taxa which are endemic to the Northland or Northland-Auckland regions.
8. Are important for indigenous or endemic migratory taxa.
9. Support viable populations of species, which are typical of that habitat type within an ecological district and retain a high degree of naturalness.

Note 1: Significant indigenous wetlands are a subset of indigenous wetlands.

Note 2: Existing base-line information on ranking and identification of areas of moderate, moderate-high, high and outstanding significance is provided on the Sites of Significant Biological Interest (SSBI) database and under the Department of Conservation's Protected Natural Areas (PNA) Programme and may be available as source information for the above assessment criteria.