



**KAIKARA
DISTRICT
PLAN REVIEW**

DECEMBER 2021

**Kaipara District Plan Review
Discussion Document
Feedback Summary**

ECOSYSTEMS AND INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

SUBMISSION FEEDBACK

The public feedback received for Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity generally agrees with the objective to support landowners and the community to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity as well as supporting Council's decision to pause work until the National Policy Statement is released by central Government. The lack of mapping and publicly available data was emphasised along with the need for better mapping. There were also several comments highlighting the need to consult closely with landowners and share knowledge regarding approaches to protecting indigenous biodiversity. It was also stated that 'win win' outcomes can be achieved by a proposed policy mix of regulation, education and incentives.

Feedback from Iwi Authorities reinforced that partnership is sought in all matters relating to the management of the ngahere including the preservation and revitalisation of native trees and restoration of awa and moana.

The benefits of identifying and protecting Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) in a district plan mean these areas will not be further degraded by land-use and subdivision development, for example through vegetation clearance or earthworks.

However, as central Government is still developing provisions for biodiversity protection through the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS IB), Council has paused any further work until the NPS IB is finalised. Central Government will be consulting on this document towards the end of this year, and Council will use this opportunity to encourage central Government to find pragmatic solutions that meet the needs of Mana Whenua, communities and stakeholders.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pause work on Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity until national guidance is in place,
- work with landowners, Mana Whenua, and the community to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity through cooperation and a range of non-statutory options and protection mechanisms,
- only apply SNAs to areas that are truly significant,
- provide for existing use rights and perform appropriate cost-benefit analysis where necessary,
- take into account the work that has already been to enhance indigenous biodiversity on properties,
- provide incentivisation such as rates relief and financial assistance for pest management and r biodiversity planting,
- include the southern slopes of the Brynderwyn ranges as an Outstanding Natural Feature/ Outstanding Natural Landscape/Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity to provide protection and prevent further development,
- create a publicly available database providing flora and fauna data from ecological reporting and Council's conservation covenants,
- undertake large scale ecosystems mapping as part of the District Plan review,
- establish a designated Environmental Information, Biodiversity and Ecology team and develop a Biodiversity Strategy,
- protect old native trees in their road reserves and avoid tree removal where possible.

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