



**Kaipara
DISTRICT
PLAN REVIEW**

AUGUST 2021

**Kaipara District Plan Review
Discussion Document Summary**



OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES

BACKGROUND

Natural features include mountains, hills, valleys, lakes, streams, wetlands, native forests, sand dunes and beaches. Natural features can change over time as a result of natural processes or human activities. These changes can reduce the characteristics and qualities that make a natural feature or landscape unique, distinctive and/or special.

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires Council to protect outstanding natural features (ONFs) from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, as a matter of national importance.

KEY ISSUES

- The Operative District Plan does not have any assessment criteria, maps, policies or rules for the protection of ONFs or the types of activities within ONFs which may need to be controlled in the District Plan to protect these from inappropriate development.
- The Operative District Plan does not contain any mapped ONFs to support rules.
- Inconsistent identification and protection of ONFs across the Northland region has led to differing levels of protection of features, especially where an ONF spans neighbouring council boundaries.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

The content of a district plan ranges from fulfilling legal requirements made by Central Government and regional councils to proposing specific provisions that meet the needs of our District and its communities. This list includes any changes required to meet legal obligations as well as some ideas Council wants to explore further with our communities.

- The Regional Policy Statement for Northland includes maps of ONFs for Northland. The inclusion of Kaipara features from these maps will inform the new District Plan and will link to provisions to ensure their qualities and characteristics are protected.
- The new District Plan should consider including a policy and rule framework for the protection of ONFs.
- The new District Plan should recognise that existing forms of development (including primary production) may be appropriate on ONFs, provided the use does not compromise any identified characteristics and qualities.

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