



**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**
PLAN REVIEW

AUGUST 2021



Kaipara District Plan Review
Discussion Document

Outstanding Natural Features

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BACKGROUND

Natural features are distinct geographic and/or geological landforms, or other features that were formed by natural processes rather than man-made. These include mountains, hills, valleys, lakes, streams, wetlands, native forests, sand dunes and beaches.

Natural features and landscapes can change over time due to various natural or human-induced processes. These changes can reduce the characteristics and qualities that make a natural feature or landscape unique, distinctive and/or special.

Under section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) the protection of Outstanding Natural Features (ONFs) and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is 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 two neighbouring council boundaries.

IWI INTERESTS AND IWI MANAGEMENT PLANS

Nga Ture mo te Taiao o Te Roroa 2009

This Iwi Management Plan discusses wāhi tapu sites that are part of a cultural landscape, which is highly valued by Te Roroa. The document reflects the importance of protecting the natural values of these sites given their high value to hapū.

Te Uri o Hau Kaitiakitanga o Te Taiao 2011

- Part 3 Mātaurangi Māori: Māori World View includes reference to sacred places, tribal history and songs in reference to natural features.
- Chapter 34 refers to Whenua: (land) and states that natural features and landscapes are valued for their unique characteristics, strategic location, or historical importance.
- Chapter 40 discusses cultural landscapes. It states that understanding significant features, relationships, and traditions associated with a place or site of significance is important not only for Te Uri o Hau, but also for the wider community and education about cultural landscapes is needed in order to protect these sites.

SUMMARY OF THE OPERATIVE DISTRICT PLAN PROVISIONS

Chapter 18 includes objectives and policies relating to ONFs. Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.



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 (RPS) includes maps of ONFs for Northland. The inclusion of Kaipara features from these maps will inform the new District Plan with provisions to ensure their qualities and characteristics are protected.
- The new District Plan should 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.

NEXT STEPS

Council will undertake a review of the existing ONFs in the Operative District Plan and evaluate the inclusion of additional features based on a study already undertaken for the District. Council can consider how to develop draft provisions in the new District Plan to support the protection of ONFs.

APPENDIX 1

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL DIRECTION

Resource Management Act 1991

Section 6(b)	Outstanding Natural Features are identified as a matter of national importance.
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REGIONAL GUIDANCE

Regional Policy Statement for Northland

Issue 2.8	Natural character, features/landscapes, and historic heritage Many of Northland's natural features and landscapes, natural character, and historic heritage have been compromised and remain at risk.
Objective 3.14(b)	Natural character, outstanding natural features, outstanding natural landscapes, and historic heritage. Identify and protect from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
Policy 4.6.1	Managing effects on the characteristics and qualities natural character, natural features, and landscapes
Appendix 1	Mapping Methods: Outstanding Natural Features
Appendix 4	Identifies those natural features that are likely to warrant being identified as Outstanding Natural Features. However further work is required to be undertaken to map the spatial extent of the identified ONF.

Proposed Regional Plan for Northland

D.2.15, D.2.17 and F.1.11	Some of the provisions relating to natural character, Outstanding Natural Features, historic heritage, and places of significance to tangata whenua with reference to mapping are still subject to appeals.
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OPERATIVE KAIPARA DISTRICT PLAN 2013 – RELEVANT PROVISIONS

Chapter 18 - Landscapes and Natural Features	This chapter includes the following: Kaipara District includes a number of natural features, some of which may be considered 'Outstanding Natural Features' (ONFs). At the time of preparing the Operative District Plan, specific mapping, or identification of ONFs had not been undertaken. The District Plan therefore only identifies issues, objectives and policies for these features and identifies the process for how ONFs will be identified and protected within the Kaipara District.
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Your Kaipara, your say.