



**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**
PLAN REVIEW

AUGUST 2021



Kaipara District Plan Review
Discussion Document

Outstanding Natural Landscapes

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BACKGROUND

Kaipara District has a diverse range of landscapes, ranging from exposed coasts, sheltered estuaries, rivers, steep bush clad hills, riverside flats and rolling farmland. Collectively, these varied landscapes contribute to the character and identity of the Kaipara District and are highly valued by the public. Some of these landscapes have been assessed and identified as Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs).

Landscape areas are classified as ONLs if they strongly display the physical characteristics and character associated with a particular landscape type. These landscapes are prominent, lend a measure of spectacle or sense of place, and have an uninhabited or sparse level of built development or modification, with a relatively low capacity to absorb change. They make a significant contribution to the District's identity and are highly valued by the public. ONLs can either be in public and private ownership, and in some cases, these landscapes are situated within working farms.



KEY ISSUES

- The Regional Policy Statement for Northland (RPS) was published in 2016, and it identifies and maps the Outstanding Landscapes within the Northland region. The new District Plan must align with the RPS. At present there are additional ONLs that have been mapped in the RPS, which are not identified in the Operative District Plan currently. These areas include Sentinel Rock and the Brynderwyn ranges. There are also changes to the RPS which need to be reflected for the Tutamoe/Kaihu Marlborough Forest boundaries.
- Chapter 18 of the Operative District Plan describes the ONLs, however does not contain any rules controlling activities within the ONLs meaning there is a current risk that subdivision, use or development could affect these landscapes if not carefully managed.



IWI INTERESTS AND IWI MANAGEMENT PLANS

Nga Ture o te Taiao o Te Roroa 2009

The landscape sections of this document predominantly refer to the cultural landscape of an area, accepting that the natural landscapes play an important role in the cultural interpretation of these landscapes.

Policies in Chapter 6 – Te Aho Tapu Mātauranga Te Roroa Wāhi Tapu and cultural landscapes are particularly relevant to management within these areas.

Te Uri o Hau Hapū Iwi Management Plan 2011

Chapter 35 – Growth and Development issues state that inappropriate development and uncontrolled growth are having adverse effects on the environment and taonga.

As cultural landscapes are of high value to Te Uri o Hau, these landscapes are discussed in further detail within this Plan.

SUMMARY OF THE OPERATIVE DISTRICT PLAN PROVISIONS

There are 23 ONLs listed in the Operative District Plan, and Appendix 18A provides a description of each ONL. Chapter 18 includes objectives and policies related to these areas. Additional details are provided in Appendix 1.

NEXT STEPS

Further work will be undertaken to identify and draft the relevant policies and objectives for ONLs.

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 new District Plan will need to map all identified ONLs and include objectives, policies and rules to ensure protection of these landscapes and to manage activities within the ONLs.

The following areas have been identified that will need to be addressed in the relevant chapter in the new District Plan:

- **Sentinel Rock**

The area identified as Sentinel Rock Coast extends from the south of the Bream Tail Outstanding Landscape Area for 2km to Sentinel Rock at the mouth of the Mangawhai Harbour. The area is confined to a narrow coastal belt, typically extending to the upper edge of the coastal ridge. Sentinel Rock has not been identified as an ONL in the Operative District Plan, but it has been in the RPS. It is not clear why it was not previously identified, but it needs to be identified in the new District Plan as required by the RPS.

- **Brynderwyn Ranges**

The Brynderwyn ranges and bush margins have been identified as an ONL in the Whangarei District Plan, on the northern escarpment of the Brynderwyn ranges. The RPS includes this area as an ONL on its maps and therefore it requires protection as an ONL in the new District Plan. However, it is clear from the aerial photography that the southern slopes of the Brynderwyn ranges, are being intensively farmed and therefore it is questionable whether this part needs to be protected in the new District Plan or not and further investigation is required.

- **Tutamoe / Kaihu / Marlborough Forest**

Tutamoe/Kaihu Marlborough Forest boundaries have slightly changed from those shown in the RPS, with some additional areas needing to be included in the new District Plan as an ONL. The forest boundary has been discussed by Council with Northland Regional Council staff and it was agreed that localised changes can be accommodated. Discussions are underway to make parts of the additional area a QEII covenanted area, in accordance with the Operative District Plan maps.

- **Tokatoka**

The extent of the Tokatoka mountain area differs when following the cadastre map compared to the road alignment. Corrections may be required for the new District Plan.

APPENDIX 1

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL DIRECTION

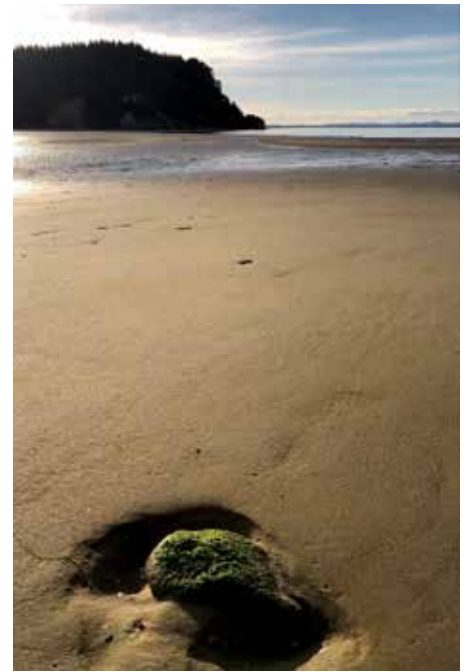
Resource Management Act 1991	
Section 6(b) – Matters of National Importance	The protection of outstanding natural landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is identified as a matter of national importance.
New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement	
Policy 15 - Natural features and natural landscapes	Policy 15 seeks to protect the natural features and landscapes (including seascapes) of the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

REGIONAL GUIDANCE

Regional Policy Statement for Northland	
Issue 2.8 - Natural character, features/landscapes and historic heritage	This issue states that many of Northland's natural features and landscapes, natural character, and historic heritage have been compromised and remain at risk as a result of the impacts of inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The primary activities of concern are built development, earthworks, significant water extractions/discharges to water, vegetation clearance and coastal structures.
Policy 4.5.1- Identification of the coastal environment, outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes, and high and outstanding natural character	The areas identified in the Regional Policy Statement – Maps will form Northland's: (a) Coastal environment; (b) High and outstanding natural character areas within the coastal environment (except where the coastal marine area beyond harbours/estuaries remain unclassified); and (c) Outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes. Where, following further detailed assessment, an area in the Regional Policy Statement – Maps has been amended in accordance with Method 4.5.4, and the amended area is operative in the relevant district or regional plan, it shall supersede the relevant area in the Regional Policy Statement – Maps.
Rule D.2.6	This rule provides for minor adverse effects arising from the establishment and operation of regionally significant infrastructure. It enables the establishment and operation (including re-consenting) of regionally significant infrastructure by allowing any minor adverse effects.
Rule D.2.15	Managing adverse effects on natural character, outstanding natural landscapes and outstanding natural features.
Rule D.2.17	Managing adverse effects on land-based values and infrastructure.

OPERATIVE KAIPARA DISTRICT PLAN 2013 – RELEVANT PROVISIONS

Chapter 18	This chapter comprehensively covers the landscapes and natural features topic and includes objectives and policies.
Appendix 18A	This appendix is the schedule of Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs) within the Kaipara District, which includes 23 Outstanding Natural Landscapes.



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