

Chapter 13

Landscapes and Vegetation



13. LANDSCAPE AND VEGETATION

13.1 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

13.1.1 OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

1. Inappropriate land use activities and subdivision can compromise the values of the outstanding **natural features and landscapes** of the District.
2. Tracking, **roads**, earthworks and the location of **buildings** and structures, including **signs** and **network utilities**, can modify outstanding **natural features and landscapes**.
3. The location of new planting, such as **production forestry**, shelterbelts and cropping, can change the visual character of landscapes through loss of openness, screening, and planting near **ridgelines** and in patterns that are not sympathetic to natural contours.
4. The clearance of areas of **indigenous vegetation** for conversion to other land uses can modify valued landscapes.
5. Enabling development of multiple-owned **Māori land** may conflict with the requirement to protect outstanding **natural features and landscapes**.

13.1.2 INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

1. Modification, degradation and destruction of indigenous vegetation and (Sub 17.147) **habitats** of indigenous fauna through urbanisation, land development and drainage has led to a decline in **biodiversity** in the District, particularly in the lowlands.
2. All areas of **indigenous vegetation** are important to maintain indigenous **biodiversity** in the District and contribute to its unique character, and they need to be maintained or enhanced.
3. **Ecosystems** are valuable for their intrinsic values and essential to the wellbeing of people and communities. They may be destroyed or degraded by inappropriate vegetation clearance, drainage, earthworks, pests, land use change, urban development and fragmentation through subdivision.
4. There is a need for education and incentive mechanisms to provide for the sustainable management and restoration of privately owned **indigenous vegetation**, including **dunelands** and **wetlands** which are individually important and contribute to ecological corridors, enhancing indigenous fauna and conservation values.
5. Plant and animal pests have contributed to the degradation of **indigenous vegetation** and **ecosystems** and the decline of indigenous **biodiversity**.

13.1.3 WETLANDS

1. There has been a significant decline in **wetland** extent and condition within the District through inappropriate drainage, modification, land use, and land development.
2. **Wetlands** are affected by activities occurring in their catchments. **Ecosystem** restoration and environmentally sensitive land management practices need to be encouraged within the catchments of **wetlands**. It is also important to maintain and enhance connectivity among freshwater **wetlands**, and between **wetlands** and other **ecosystem** types such as terrestrial forests and estuaries.
3. **Wetlands** need to be maintained to sustain **ecosystem** services including **habitats** of indigenous fauna, improve water quality by filtering of pollutants and sediments, and reduce flood flows.

13.1.4 NATURAL CHARACTER

1. Inappropriate management can lead to a decline in the **natural character** of the coastal environment, **wetlands**, lakes, and rivers, and their margins.
2. Qualities and values of estuarine and coastal margins and riparian areas can be threatened by inappropriate **access**, land use and development.
3. Some land use activities can adversely affect estuarine and coastal margins and riparian areas, and subsequently water quality, species, (Sub 8.15) **habitats**, and the margins of **waterbodies**, harbours, estuaries and the open coast.

13.2 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

13.2.1 OBJECTIVE - OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

To protect outstanding natural features and landscapes from the adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

POLICIES

13.2.1.1 The adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use, and development, including **buildings**, structures and earthworks, on the values of outstanding natural features are avoided.

13.2.1.2 Adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use, and development, including **buildings**, structures and earthworks, on the values of outstanding natural landscapes are avoided in the coastal environment, and, outside the coastal environment, where avoidance is not practicable, remedied or mitigated. (Sub 8.153)

13.2.1.3 Continuation of existing rural production activities is recognised and provided for.

13.2.1.4 Change in vegetation patterns and land contour as a result of land use change associated with new activities such as **production forestry** or other crops is managed to minimise adverse effects ~~on natural contours and avoid straight lines (Sub 8.155)~~ to maintain or enhance the landscape values of ~~identified-outstanding~~ (Sub 60.77) **natural features and landscapes** identified on the Planning Maps and Appendices 13.9.1 and 13.9.2. (Sub 8.155)

13.2.1.5 Development of multiple-owned **Māori land** is enabled through compliance with performance standards to protect outstanding **natural features and landscapes**.

13.2.1.6 Network utilities which have a functional requirement to locate in sensitive locations are allowed subject to compliance with specific design and locational rules. (Sub 53.1, 54.1, 55.1 et al)

13.2.2 OBJECTIVE – INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

The sustainable management of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance biodiversity of the District, including maintaining the overall extent of rare and threatened ecosystem types (Sub 17.156).

POLICIES

13.2.2.1 To protect significant **indigenous vegetation** and significant (Sub 7.76) **habitats** of indigenous fauna, where significance is assessed in accordance with the criteria in Appendix 13.9.3, by avoiding adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, land use, or development in the coastal environment and, outside the coastal environment, (Sub 7.77) where avoidance is not practicable, adverse effects are remedied or mitigated.

13.2.2.2 Where avoidance is not possible, ~~appropriate,~~ to require restoration and rehabilitation of significant **indigenous vegetation** and habitats of indigenous fauna on or off the **site,** ~~where avoidance of adverse effects is not possible,~~ giving priority to the habitats and ecosystem types ~~sites~~ listed in 13.9.4 and by reference to the criteria in Appendix 13.9.3. (Sub 8.159, 17.157)

13.2.2.3 To encourage the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded **indigenous vegetation** through plant and animal pest control and revegetation, using genetically suitable **indigenous flora** where appropriate and considering the **habitat** requirements of **indigenous fauna**.

13.2.2.4 To encourage the protection, restoration and management of **ecosystems** that are rare and threatened at a local (ecological district), regional or national level.

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- 13.2.2.5 To avoid, or, where this is not practicable, remedy, mitigate or offset the adverse effects of activities on indigenous **biodiversity**, including protecting indigenous **ecosystems**, rare, at risk, or threatened species ~~and their habitats~~ and maintain the overall extent of rare and threatened ecosystem types. (Sub 17.158)
- 13.2.2.6 To encourage landowners through the use of a variety of methods including advocacy, education and, where possible, incentives, to recognise natural values and to protect areas of significant **indigenous vegetation** and **habitats** of indigenous fauna.
- 13.2.2.8 To promote the restoration of **ecosystems** that have been damaged or degraded to ensure their continued viability.
- 13.2.2.9 To use **riparian management areas** to protect and restore whitebait spawning **habitats**.
- 13.2.2.10 To encourage the restoration and enhancement of riparian margins to support indigenous flora and fauna **habitats**.
- 13.2.2.11 Avoid adverse effects of deer and goat farming through application of goat farming management areas and fencing standards for farmed deer. (Sub 8.161)

13.2.3 OBJECTIVE – WETLANDS

Wetlands within the District continue to support indigenous flora and fauna habitats as part of a wider ecological system and the natural character of the wetlands is maintained and enhanced.

POLICIES

- 13.2.3.1 To protect the **natural character** and **habitat** values of **wetlands**, including maintaining their extent and ability to sustain indigenous species.
- 13.2.3.2 To promote the restoration and enhancement of **riparian management areas** ~~and through~~ best practice land use as a means of to reducing and mitigating the adverse effects of activities on **wetlands**. (Sub 60.90)
- 13.2.3.3 To avoid, remedy or mitigate, ~~or offset~~ adverse effects of inappropriate activities on **wetlands**, including maintaining the overall extent of **wetlands**. (Sub 8.171)
- 13.2.3.4 To encourage ~~require~~ the restoration and rehabilitation of **wetlands** on or off sites, where the avoidance of adverse effects is not possible. (Sub 8.171, 60.92)

13.2.4 OBJECTIVE – NATURAL CHARACTER

Coastal and estuarine margins, wetlands and riparian areas within the District continue to support indigenous flora and fauna as part of a wider ecological system; and their natural character is maintained and enhanced.

POLICIES

13.2.4.1 To manage the effects of land use activities adjoining and within coastal and estuarine margins and riparian areas of the District so that **natural character** of **waterbodies**, harbours and estuaries and their margins are not degraded.

13.2.4.2 To preserve **indigenous riparian vegetation** areas and coastal and estuarine margins within the District for their **natural character**, ecological, **biodiversity**, historical, and cultural character and value.

13.2.4.3 Avoid significant adverse effects from earthworks and vegetation clearance on natural landscapes in the Coastal Environment. (Sub 7.50)

13.3 ACTIVITY STATUS

Resource consent is required for all Controlled, Restricted Discretionary, Discretionary and Non-complying activities. Resource consent is not required for Permitted Activities, provided all relevant Standards are met.

13.3.1 Additional controls may apply in the Zone Chapter and the following Chapters:

- Chapter 12 – Surface of Water Activities
- Chapter 14 - Heritage
- Chapter 15 – Natural Hazards

Subdivision is managed through Chapter 15 - Subdivision in all zones.

Network utilities are subject to the provisions in Chapter 17 and this Chapter. (Sub 53.28, 54.28, 55.28)

~~13.3.2 PERMITTED ACTIVITIES~~

~~13.3.2.1 The following activities do not require land use consent if they comply with all relevant standards and the requirements of other Plan Chapters.~~

- ~~1. Existing rural production activities including **production forestry**.~~

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- ~~2.—Conservation planting and management of **indigenous vegetation**, including replanting and rehabilitation.~~
 - ~~3.—Exotic weed and pest animal control and eradication programmes.~~
 - ~~4.—Maintenance and pruning of pohutukawa trees where such maintenance or pruning is necessary for the health of the tree or the safety of people and a report from a suitably qualified and experienced person is lodged with the **Council** before work commences, confirming that the work is necessary and outlining the methodology.~~
 - ~~5.—Rehabilitation of **wetlands**, **wetland** networks, and natural drainage channels, with **indigenous vegetation** that naturally occurs (or would have been likely to have naturally occurred in the past) in the locality.~~
 - ~~6.—**Indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance**, subject to compliance with 13.4.1, where:

 - ~~(a) It is up to 100m² of coastal dune vegetation;~~
 - ~~(b) Within sites listed in 13.9.1, It affects an area less than 100m² in any 12 month period;~~
 - ~~(c) In the Coastal, Coastal Settlement and Ohiwa Harbour zones, it affects an area less than 100m² in any 12 month period; and otherwise—~~
 - ~~(d) In the Ōpōtiki or Taneatua Ecological Districts, the sum of all clearance in any five year period shall not exceed 400m²; or~~
 - ~~(e) In the Waioeka, Motu or Pukeamaru Ecological Districts, the sum of all clearance in any five year period shall not exceed 2000m².~~~~
 - ~~7.—**Indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance**, unless otherwise specified in this chapter, subject to compliance with 13.4.1, where:

 - ~~(a) It is naturally regenerating **indigenous scrubland** that is less than 3.5 metres in **height** and that has been cleared in the past ten years for **farming** purposes and further clearance is required to maintain an existing **farming** operation.~~
 - ~~(b) It is required to maintain an existing fence line and is within 2m of the fence line.~~
 - ~~(c) It is for maintenance of open space within 5m from an existing lawfully established **building**.~~
 - ~~(d) It is **indigenous vegetation** under an existing production forest, including skid sites.~~
 - ~~(e) It is within the existing formation width to maintain, existing walking and cycling tracks, driveways, public or public **roads**, farm and forestry tracks, and **network utilities**.~~
 - ~~(f) The sustainable harvest of plant material for rongoa Māori (customary medicine), raranga (weaving) and mahi-whakairo (carving).~~
 - ~~(g) It is in accordance with a Conservation Management Strategy or a management plan under Reserves **Act** 1977, Conservation **Act** 1987, or Te Ture Whenua Māori **Act** 1993.~~~~
 - ~~8.—**Agriforestry** on sites listed in 13.9.1, including establishment and/or harvesting of manuka.~~
 - ~~9.—Within **sites** listed in 13.9.1 and 13.9.2, earthworks for the following purposes:~~

- (a) ~~In a site listed in 13.9.1, affecting an area less than 400m² or 200m² in any 12 month period.~~
 - (b) ~~Ploughing and maintenance of drains associated with normal pastoral **farming** practices (definition) within a **pastoral landscape**.~~
 - (c) ~~Troughs, and their associated pipe networks, and realignment of fencelines, associated with normal **farming** practices.~~
 - (d) ~~Earthworks in association with an approved subdivision or for an activity which is authorised by resource consent.~~
 - (e) ~~Earthworks including land preparation and vegetation clearance undertaken as part of an existing production forest.~~
 - (f) ~~**Maintenance** of existing **roads** and **accessways** within the same formation width~~
 - (g) ~~**Maintenance, upgrading and replacement** of existing infrastructure including high voltage transmission lines.~~
10. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1, new **buildings accessory** to existing **farming** activities, subject to compliance with 13.4.4.
11. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, maintenance and replacement of existing lawfully established **buildings** and structures, subject to compliance with 13.4.4.
12. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1, land based **aquaculture**, subject to compliance with 13.4.4.

~~13.3.2~~ **CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES**

~~13.3.2.1~~ The following activities may be established after land use consent has been granted by **Council**. Activities must comply with the Zone Standards and any other relevant Standards.

- ~~1.~~ Relocation of pohutukawa including for enhancement or protective purposes, provided that a report from a suitably qualified and experienced person has been provided to **Council** before work commences.
- ~~2.~~ Within a site listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, earthworks and vegetation clearance and **disturbance** for the construction of new walking and cycling tracks.
- ~~3.~~ Except for a site listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, or in the Coastal, Coastal Settlement or Ohiwa Harbour zones, **indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance** on **sites**, where necessary to provide for a stable **building** platform and **access**, and no alternative location are available within the **site**.

~~13.3.3~~ **RESTRICTED DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES**

~~13.3.3.1~~ The following activities require land use consent from the **Council** and consent may be granted or refused.

- ~~1. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, **indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance** for new **buildings** and **building** platforms not provided for above.~~
- ~~2. Within a **site** in the Coastal, Coastal Settlement and Ohiwa Harbour zones, **indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance** for new **buildings** and **building** platforms not provided for above, subject to:

 - ~~(a) Vegetation clearance for a house site and its curtilage shall be no more than 250m² on land contained in one title or partition order, where a building consent has been issued and where there is no existing building and no suitable previously cleared land.~~
 - ~~(b) An access way up to 30m in length and 3m wide may be cleared to service the house site.~~
 - ~~(c) There shall be no disturbance of individual pohutukawa, or other coastal species greater than 3.5m in height.~~~~
- ~~3. **Indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance** over 100m² within a 12 month period, within a **site** in the Coastal, Coastal Settlement and Ohiwa Harbour zones, except as otherwise provided for as a Permitted or Controlled Activity.~~
- ~~4. Modification, infilling or drainage up to 100 metres² of a **wetland**.~~
- ~~5. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2 or within a **wetland**, **indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance**, where necessary to provide for a stable **building** platform and **access**, and no alternative locations are available within the **site**.~~

13.3.4 DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

13.3.4.1 The following activities require land use consent from the **Council** and consent may be granted or refused:

- ~~1. Clearance or **disturbance** of any pohutukawa tree in the Coastal, Coastal Settlement and Ohiwa Harbour zones or not provided for above.~~
- ~~2. **Disturbance** of **indigenous estuarine vegetation** or more than 100m² of **coastal dune land vegetation**.~~
- ~~3. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, **indigenous vegetation** clearance and **disturbance** not otherwise provided for as a Permitted, Controlled or Restricted Discretionary Activity.~~
- ~~4. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, new **buildings** and structures where the highest point of the **building** or structure is within 10 metres vertical distance of natural ground level on a ridge.~~
- ~~5. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.2, earthworks not otherwise provided for.~~
- ~~6. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, **production forestry**.~~
- ~~7. Within a **site** listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, **mining** and **quarrying**.~~
- ~~8. Modification, infilling or drainage of a **wetland** over 100m² in area.~~
- ~~9. Removal of vegetation within **wetlands**.~~

~~13.3.56~~ ~~PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES~~

~~13.3.56.1~~ The following activities are prohibited activities for which no resource consent shall be granted:

- ~~1. Keeping, holding, or farming of wallaby species.~~
- ~~2. Keeping, holding, or farming of ferrets, stoats and weasels.~~

13.3.2 ACTIVITIES IN SITES LISTED IN 13.9.1 OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPES AND 13.9.2 OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES

	Rule	13.9.1 Outstanding Natural Landscapes	13.9.2 Outstanding Natural Features
	Rural Production Activities		
1.	Existing rural production activities including production forestry and activities enabling the continuation of the activity (Sub 8.176, 60.97)	P	P
2.	New Production forestry (13.3.4.1.6)	D	D
3.	Mining and quarrying. (13.3.4.1.7)	D	D
4. 8	Agriforestry , including establishment and/or harvesting of manuka.	P	D
5. 13	Land based aquaculture , subject to compliance with 13.4.4.	P	D
6. 3	Exotic weed and pest animal control and eradication programmes	P	P
	Buildings and Structures		
7. 11	New buildings accessory to existing farming activities, subject to compliance with 13.4.4.	P	RDA
8. 12	Maintenance and replacement of existing lawfully established buildings and structures, subject to compliance with 13.4.4.	P	P
8.	New buildings and structures where the highest point of the building or structure is within 10 metres vertical distance of natural ground level on a ridge. (13.3.4.1.4)	D	D
	Indigenous Vegetation		
9.2	Conservation planting and management of indigenous vegetation , including replanting and rehabilitation	P	P
10.6	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance which affects an area less than 100m ² in any 12 month period, <u>except as listed below</u>	P	D
11.	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance for the construction of new walking and cycling tracks (13.3.2.1.2)	C	C
12.	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance , where necessary to provide for a stable building platform for a dwelling (Sub 17.168) and access , and no alternative locations are available within the site (13.3.2.1.3)	RDA	RDA

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	Rule	13.9.1 Outstanding Natural Landscapes	13.9.2 Outstanding Natural Features
13.	indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance for new buildings and building platforms not provided for above	RDA	RDA
14.	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance not otherwise provided for as a Permitted, Controlled or Restricted Discretionary Activity (13.3.4.1.3)	D	D
4	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance within a wetland, where necessary to provide for a stable building platform and access, and no alternative locations are available within the site	RDA	RDA
<u>15.7</u>	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance , unless otherwise specified in this chapter, subject to compliance with <u>13.4.1</u> , in addition to the activities specified above where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) It is naturally regenerating indigenous scrubland that is less than 3.5 metres in height and that has been cleared in the past ten years for farming purposes and further clearance is required to maintain an existing farming operation. (b) It is required to maintain an existing fence line and is within 2m of the fence line. (c) It is for maintenance of open space within 5m from an existing lawfully established building. (d) It is indigenous vegetation under an existing production forest, including skid sites, the edges of <u>forest roads</u>, and <u>areas of failed planting within the forest, as well as vegetation that has regenerated in the current rotation and will be affected temporarily by forest harvesting operations.</u> (Sub 10.16) (e) It is within the existing formation width to maintain, existing walking and cycling tracks, driveways, public or public <u>private roads</u> (Sub 24.73), and <u>farm and forestry tracks, and network utilities</u>, (Sub 53.28, 54.28, 55.28) (f) The sustainable harvest of plant material for rongoa Māori (customary medicine), raranga (weaving) and mahi-whakairo (carving). (g) It is in accordance with a Conservation Management Strategy or a management plan under Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987, or Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. 	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>
<u>16.</u>	<u>Indigenous vegetation disturbance in addition to the activities specified above where in accordance with statute, covenants or other legal instruments including:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Consent Notice or covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats with the Council;</u> b. <u>Biodiversity Management Plan or a Wetland Management Agreement approved by Bay of Plenty Regional Council or a resource consent from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council</u> 	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>

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	Rule	13.9.1 Outstanding Natural Landscapes	13.9.2 Outstanding Natural Features
	<p>c. <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats approved by Department of Conservation,</u></p> <p>d. <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats with the QEII Trust;</u></p> <p>e. <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats with Nga Whenua Rāhui;</u></p> <p>f. <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats empowered under Treaty claims settlement legislation. (Sub 17.164); and</u></p> <p>g. It is in accordance with a Conservation Management Strategy or a management plan under Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987, or Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993</p>		
	Earthworks		
17.9	Earthworks affecting an area less than 400m ² or 200m ³ in any 12 month period.	P	D
18.9	<p>Earthworks for the following purposes:</p> <p>(a) Ploughing and maintenance of drains associated with normal pastoral farming practices (definition) (Sub 24.74) within a pastoral landscape (Sub 11.147).</p> <p>(b) Troughs, and their associated pipe networks, and realignment of fencelines, associated with normal farming practices.</p> <p>(c) Earthworks in association with an approved subdivision or for an activity which is authorised by resource consent <u>and earthworks design forms an integral part of the application and consent conditions (Sub 17.166).</u></p> <p>(d) Earthworks including land preparation and vegetation clearance undertaken as part of an existing production forest.</p> <p>(e) Maintenance of existing roads and accessways within the same formation width</p> <p>(f) Maintenance, upgrading and replacement of existing infrastructure including high voltage transmission lines. (Sub 53.28, 54.28, 55.28)</p>	P	P
19.	Earthworks for the construction of new walking and cycling tracks <u>up to 1.5m wide (Sub 8.183)</u> (13.3.2.1.3)	C	C
20.	Earthworks not otherwise provided for. (13.3.4.1.5)	D	D

13.3.2.2 Indigenous Vegetation Clearance on sites not listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2

	Rule	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	Pohutukawa				
1.4	Maintenance and pruning of pohutukawa trees where such maintenance or pruning is necessary for the health of the tree or the safety of people and a report from a suitably qualified and experienced person is lodged with the Council before work commences, confirming that the work is necessary and outlining the methodology	P	P	P	P
2.	Relocation of pohutukawa including for enhancement or protective purposes, provided that a report from a suitably qualified and experienced person has been provided to Council before work commences (13.3.2.1.1)	C	C	C	P
3	Clearance or disturbance of any pohutukawa tree (13.3.4.1.1)	D	D	D	P
	All Other Indigenous Vegetation				
4.6	indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance which affects an area less than 100m ² in any 12 month period	P	P	P	P
5.	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance , where necessary to provide for a stable building platform and access , and no alternative locations are available within the site (13.3.2.1.3)	C	C	C	C
6.	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance , unless otherwise specified in this chapter, subject to compliance with 13.4.1 , in addition to the activities specified above where: (a) It is naturally regenerating indigenous scrubland that is less than 3.5 metres in height and that has been cleared in the past ten years for farming purposes and further clearance is required to maintain an existing farming operation. (b) It is required to maintain an existing fence line and is within 2m of the fence line. (c) It is for maintenance of open space within 5m from an existing lawfully established building . (d) It is indigenous vegetation under an existing production forest, including skid sites, the edges of <u>forest roads</u> , and areas of failed planting within the forest, as well as vegetation that has regenerated in the current rotation and will be affected temporarily by forest harvesting operations. (Sub 10.16) (e) It is within the existing formation width to maintain, existing walking and cycling tracks, driveways, public or public <u>private roads</u> (Sub 24.73), <u>and</u> farm and forestry tracks, and network utilities. (Sub 53.28, 54.28, 55.28)	P	P	P	P

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	Rule	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	<p>(f) The sustainable harvest of plant material for rongoa Māori (customary medicine), raranga (weaving) and mahi whakairo (carving).</p> <p>(g) It is in accordance with a Conservation Management Strategy or a management plan under Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987, or Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.</p>				
7.	<p><u>Indigenous vegetation disturbance in addition to the activities specified above where in accordance with statute, covenants or other legal instruments including:</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Consent Notice or covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats with the Council;</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Biodiversity Management Plan or a Wetland Management Agreement approved by Bay of Plenty Regional Council or a resource consent from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council</u></p> <p>(c) <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats approved by Department of Conservation,</u></p> <p>(d) <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats with the QEII Trust;</u></p> <p>(e) <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats with Nga Whenua Rāhui;</u></p> <p>(f) <u>Covenant for the protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats empowered under Treaty claims settlement legislation. (Sub 17.164); and</u></p> <p>(g) It is in accordance with a Conservation Management Strategy or a management plan under Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987, or Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993</p>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>P</u>
8.	<p>Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance for new buildings and building platforms not provided for above, subject to:</p> <p>(a) Vegetation clearance for a house site and its curtilage shall be no more than 250m² on land contained in one title or partition order, where a building consent has been issued and where there is no existing building and no suitable previously cleared land.</p> <p>(b) An access way up to 30m in length and 3m wide may be cleared to service the house site.</p> <p>(c) There shall be no disturbance of individual pohutukawa, or other coastal species greater than 3.5m in height. (13.3.2.1.2)</p>	RDA	RDA	RDA	P
9.	<p>Disturbance of indigenous estuarine vegetation or more than 100m² of coastal dune land vegetation</p>	D	D	D	D

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	Rule	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
10.	<u>Trimming of any indigenous vegetation to achieve compliance with the requirements of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 or its successor; or where required for the operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of, and access to, the National Grid. (Sub 39.48)</u>	P	P	P	P
11.6	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance which affects an area less than 100m ² in any 12 month period	P	P	P	Refer <u>12 below</u>
12.6	Indigenous vegetation disturbance not in the Coastal, Coastal Settlement or Ohiwa Harbour Zones: a. in the Ōpōtiki or Taneatua Ecological Districts, where the sum of all clearance in any five year period shall not exceed 400m ² ; or b. in the Waioeka, Motu or Pukeamaru Ecological Districts, where the sum of all clearance in any five year period shall not exceed 2000m ²	-	-	-	P
13.	Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance over 100m ² within a 12 month period, except as otherwise provided for as a Permitted or Controlled Activity. (13.3.3.1.3)	RDA	RDA	RDA	P
14.	<u>Removal of material infected by unwanted organisms as declared by MPI Chief Technical Officer or an emergency declared by the Minister under the Biosecurity Act 1993. (Sub 11.146)</u>				
15.	Removal of vegetation within wetlands (13.3.4.1.9) Advice Note: BOPRC consent may be applied for activities that affect wetlands	D	D	D	D

13.3.3 PEST ANIMALS

The following activities apply across all zones

	Pest Animals	
1.	Keeping, holding, or farming of wallaby species. (13.3.5.1.1)	Pro
2.	Keeping, holding, or farming of ferrets, stoats and weasels (13.3.5.1.2)	Pro

13.4 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

13.4.1 VEGETATION DISTURBANCE IN OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES OR LANDSCAPES

13.4.1.1 Where vegetation clearance is undertaken in an Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape, the following performance standard shall apply:

1. The area cleared and not otherwise surfaced shall be replanted with locally sourced indigenous species within the next growing season.

2. Pohutukawa trees shall not be removed or trimmed as part of vegetation **disturbance** under this rule.

13.4.2 EARTHWORKS IN SITES ~~OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES OR LANDSCAPES~~ LISTED IN 13.9.1 OR 13.9.2 AND IN THE OHIWA HARBOUR ZONE AND COASTAL ZONE (Sub 17.175)

13.4.2.1 Where earthworks are undertaken in a site an Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscape listed in 13.9.1 and 13.9.2, in the Ōhiwa Harbour Zone or in the Coastal Zone, tThe following performance standards shall apply: (Sub 17.176)

1. The total area shall not exceed 400m²; and
2. The total volume shall not exceed 200m³; and
3. The maximum cut and/or fill face shall not exceed 3m; and
4. Where the earthworks are visible from a public **road**, public reserve, coastal marine area or the foreshore, bare surfaces shall be stabilised with mulch, hydroseeding or similar stabilisation mechanism; or where the earthworks are not visible from these areas, bare surfaces shall be revegetated in the next growing season.

13.4.3 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN SITES LISTED IN 13.9.1 OR 13.9.2 ~~OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES~~

13.4.3.1 The following performance standards shall apply:

1. All external surfaces of **buildings** shall have a maximum reflectivity value of 35% or shall be finished in natural materials that fall within this range; and
2. The highest point of new **buildings** and structures, including rooflines, shall be a minimum of 10m below the natural ground level of any ridge; and
3. Where the **building** or structure is to be located within an established vegetation canopy, the highest point of the **building** or structure shall not be higher than the existing canopy; and
4. The maximum **height** of new **buildings** and structures shall be 7m.

13.5 ~~ASSESSMENT OF RESERVED CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES~~ (Sub 17.13)

13.5.1 The **Council** has reserved control over the following matters for all Controlled Activities and may impose conditions in relation to these matters.

1. The location and extent of **vegetation** to be cleared in relation to the minimum area required for the house and curtilage.
2. The management and protection of any rare and threatened species.

3. Protection of ecological values of remaining vegetation from the effects of domestic pests and exotic plant species (including garden varieties).
4. Mitigation and offset measures including on-going protection, maintenance and restoration of the feature, and/or planting of any indigenous species to offset that which is lost and ensure positive environmental effects from the activity.
5. The necessity for the activity and alternative methods and locations available for applicants to carry out the works or activities.
6. Measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate:
 - (a) The adverse effects of vegetation clearance on indigenous **biodiversity**, including cumulative effects;
 - (b) adverse effects on **natural character** and **natural features and natural landscapes**; and
 - (c) adverse effects on ecological linkages and corridors.
7. The treatment of the area surrounding the **building** platform and **access**. to minimise adverse effects on adjoining vegetation.
8. The degree to which any clearing will adversely affect the representativeness of the **indigenous vegetation**.
9. The need for buffer planting or riparian planting to ensure positive environmental effects from the activity.
10. The legal protection and management of **indigenous vegetation**.
11. The location and design of **building** platforms and **access**.
12. The ways to achieve maintenance and enhancement of the values identified in Appendix F of the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement.
13. The relationship of the activity to historic items listed in 14.9 and how the activity will mitigate any potential adverse effects. (Sub 18.102)

13.6 ~~**ASSESSMENT OF RESTRICTED DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES**~~ (Sub 17.13)

13.6.1 **Council** has restricted discretion control over the following matters for the identified Restricted Discretionary Activities. Consent may be granted or refused in relation to these matters and, if consent is granted, **Council** may impose conditions on these matters.

13.6.2 **EARTHWORKS WITHIN A SITE IDENTIFIED IN SITES LISTED IN 13.9.1 and 13.9.2**

1. The scale and location of earthworks in relation to the values and characteristics of the **site**.
2. Whether earthworks maintain the existing landform profile and align with the contour of the Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.
3. How the effects of cut and fill can be minimised and the final contours re-vegetated.
4. The opportunities available to enhance or restore the values of the Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.

5. The location of earthworks in relation to areas of significance to tangata whenua and significant natural areas.
6. The significance of the earthworks in relation to landform of landscapes or features listed in 13.9.3 and 13.9.4, and the effect on landscape values.
7. Measures implemented to manage the sedimentation and siltation effects of activities on natural resources and associated natural drainage courses.
8. Mitigation proposed, such as planting, to mitigate the visual effects of the activity on the surrounding environment.
9. The benefits of and necessity for the activity and alternative methods and locations available for applicants to carry out the works or activities. (Sub 39.50)

13.6.3 ~~CLEARANCE OR~~ DISTURBANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION

1. The scale and location of the ~~clearance or~~ disturbance of **indigenous vegetation** in relation to the values and characteristics of the **site**, in terms of quantity, type, ecological and landscape significance.
2. How the effects of ~~clearance or~~ disturbance can be minimised and the final contours re-vegetated.
3. The opportunities available to enhance or restore the values of the Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.
4. The location of works in relation to areas of significance to tangata whenua and areas of **indigenous vegetation** including significant natural areas.
5. The significance of the **indigenous vegetation** affected as assessed in relation to 13.9.3 and 13.9.4, and the effect on ecological and biodiversity values, including rare and threatened vegetation types.
6. The potential effects on ecological and biodiversity values of **indigenous habitats** and their contribution to ecological corridors.
7. The need for replanting of vegetation to compensate for that which is lost.
8. The treatment of the area surrounding the building platform, where relevant, so that adjoining vegetation is not adversely affected.
9. The need for buffer planting or riparian planting to ensure positive environmental effects from the activity.
10. The legal protection and management of indigenous vegetation.
11. Consideration of effects on at risk, threatened and regionally distinctive flora and fauna species
12. Consideration of effects on ecological/biodiversity values of indigenous vegetation and habitats
13. Mechanisms to protect areas of ecological values of habitats on an ongoing basis
14. Assessments by appropriately qualified ecologist

15. Legal instruments that can be used to protect and manage remaining vegetation/habitat on an ongoing basis (including fencing & pest control)
16. Site restoration and enhancement programmes
17. Development of a monitoring programme to gauge effects of the activity on ecological values (Sub 17.173)
18. The benefits of and necessity for the activity and alternative methods and locations available for applicants to carry out the works or activities. (Sub 39.51)

13.6.4 NEW BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ON SITES LISTED IN 13.9.1 and 13.9.2

1. The location, orientation and scale of the proposed **buildings** and structures.
2. The colours, finishes and reflectivity proposed to mitigate the visual effects on the landscape or feature
3. The siting, orientation, design, and bulk of any **buildings** and materials used for their construction, and how they will integrate the **building** or structure into the surrounding natural environment.
4. The separation of the finished **building** roofline or structure from the nearest **ridgeline**.
5. Proposed planting or **landscaping** to mitigate potential adverse visual effects of **buildings**, structures and earthworks on the values of the **site**.
6. The location and design of associated vehicle access, manoeuvring and parking areas.
7. The benefits of and necessity for the activity and alternative methods and locations available for applicants to carry out the works or activities. (Sub 39.52)

13.6.5 MODIFICATION OF WETLANDS

- ~~1.— Programme for **site** management, vegetation clearance and replanting;~~
- ~~2.— The relationship with adjacent areas and the potential effects on their values.~~
- ~~3.— The necessity for the activity and alternative methods and locations available for the works or activities.~~
- ~~4.— Effects on the ecological and biodiversity values of the **wetland**, including rare and threatened and at risk species and originally rare ecosystems.~~
- ~~5.— Mitigation proposed, including restoration and rehabilitation on or off the site, in relation to the maintenance of wetland areas in the district. (Sub 60.158)~~

13.7 OTHER METHODS

- 13.7.1** The objective and policies of the Zone are implemented by the rules and the following other methods.
1. Raise public awareness of significant indigenous **habitats** and natural features and freshwater **ecosystems**, by making information available on the importance of these areas.

2. Consult and liaise with landowners, Iwi, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, and other organisations for the management, conservation, and protection of natural resources in the District, including the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes by retiring and fencing off of land.
3. Investigation into the use of rates relief as a method of encouraging landowners to protect areas of **indigenous vegetation**, significant natural areas and riparian areas.
4. To investigate the use of the Natural Heritage Fund, and the implementation of Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Covenants or other legal mechanisms of protection within the District to ensure protection of lands with important values for **biodiversity** and to the community.
5. To promote to iwi Nga Whenua Rahui to protect significant natural areas on their land.
6. Encouragement of voluntary methods of protection for riparian and **wetland** areas.
7. To investigate the opportunity for cost sharing to support ecological studies of potentially significant areas of indigenous vegetation. (Sub 60.86)

13.8 EXPECTED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

Environmental outcomes anticipated from the implementation of the objectives, policies and methods of this section are:

- A. Protection and enhancement of the District's outstanding **natural features and landscapes**.
- B. Protection, enhancement, and sustainable management of significant **indigenous vegetation** and significant **habitats** of indigenous fauna.
- C. Protection and enhancement of the District's **biodiversity** resource.
- D. The restoration of **habitats** that contribute positively to the District's high environmental quality.
- E. Maintenance of rare and threatened **habitat** types, including **wetlands**, dune lands and originally rare ecosystem types.
- F. Rural production activities will continue to contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of the district. (Sub 11.153)

13.9 APPENDICES

13.9.1 OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPES

The following are identified as outstanding natural landscapes in the District and subject to the rules in this Chapter.

No.	Name Of QNFL <u>Outstanding Natural Landscape</u>	Description	<u>Values (Sub 8.195)</u>
1	Ikawhenua Forest and Urewera Forest Inland	Extensive area of contiguous native forest modified at edges along main river valleys. Large areas of cleared bush within forest have been excluded. Managed under a variety of mechanisms, for example includes part of Whirinaki Forest Park, Te Urewera, Waioeka Conservation Area, Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve, Urutawa Conservation Area, Toatoa Scenic Reserve and Whitikau Scenic Reserve and Ruakumara Forest Park. An extensive area of upland forest of national significance with high ecological values and landscape integrity in relation to landscape structure and landscape function. Very high Cultural Values.	<p><u>High Natural Science Factors: Recognised characteristic of the upland forest landscape and backdrop to the District. In a good state of preservation despite extensive historical logging. There are high natural science research values to this area with the extent of the forest coverage significant and rare with a high diversity of forest and ecosystem types.</u></p> <p><u>High Aesthetic Values with strong cohesive upland indigenous forest landscape patterns depicting the variety of steep to very steep upland topography and valley systems. The scale, elevation and visibility at a District Wide scale provide a striking and memorable landscape. Margins of the forest adjoining road corridors create highly memorable experiences. A high level of naturalness with human modification and settlement within the area having a relatively low impact on the scale of the landscape and extent of forested area.</u></p> <p><u>Highly Expressive of upland volcanic topography and weathered terrain and natural processes that form the landscape.</u></p> <p><u>High Transient values with varying weather conditions, forest flowering, seasonal change in river and valley systems through this landscape.</u></p>
2	Otamaroa Inland	Steep upland range continuum from the Mangatoetoe Stream corridor to Whangaparaoa River corridor and the seaward slope of Tapuaeharuru-Tutaewhakapiki ridgeline west to Otamaroa and State Highway 35. Majority of area outside of the regional	<p><u>High Natural Science Factors: Recognised characteristic of the forest landscape and backdrop to the District. In a good state of preservation despite extensive historical logging. There are high natural science research values to this area with the extent of the forest coverage significant and rare with a high diversity of forest and ecosystem types.</u></p> <p><u>High Aesthetic Values with strong cohesive upland indigenous forest landscape patterns depicting the</u></p>

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No.	Name Of <u>ONFL</u> <u>Outstanding Natural</u> <u>Landscape</u>	Description	<u>Values (Sub 8.195)</u>
		boundary.	<p><u>variety of steep to very steep upland topography and valley systems. The scale, elevation and visibility at a District Wide scale provide a striking and memorable landscape. Margins of the forest adjoining road corridors create highly memorable experiences. A high level of naturalness with human modification and settlement within the area having a relatively low impact on the scale of the landscape and extent of forested area.</u></p> <p>Highly <u>Expressive of upland volcanic topography and weathered terrain and natural processes that form the landscape.</u></p> <p>High <u>Transient values with varying weather conditions, forest flowering, seasonal change in this landscape</u></p>
3	Steep Coastal Hills between Cape Runaway & Lottin Point	<p>Steep coastal hill land with dramatic landforms depicting the natural volcanic and coastal processes of the landscape. Productive agricultural practices occur on the land which contribute to the recognition of the coastal patterns.</p> <p>Productive rural practices have contributed to the identification of the landscape as Outstanding with the natural science and aesthetic values forming key attributes to this landscape.</p>	<p>Moderate <u>Natural Science Factors identified with distinctive steep coastal hill face that extends to a steep rocky shoreline. Grazed pasture dominates the landscape with some remnant pockets of native vegetation and individual groupings of native shrubs and trees. The landform is rare at a regional and district scale with the composition of a rocky shoreline and steep coastal hills.</u></p> <p>Moderate <u>Aesthetic values with a largely denuded landscape of limited indigenous vegetation through pastoral farming with some vegetation remaining in gullies and along the shoreline. A highly vivid and distinctive landform with the open pasture revealing the dramatic landform. Naturalness is moderate with modification to the natural biotic patterns high. Remnant native vegetation reinforces natural patterns.</u></p> <p>Moderately to Highly <u>Expressive of the natural processes that formed and continue to shape this landscape.</u></p> <p>Low Transient <u>values identified for this landscape.</u></p>

13.9.2 OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES

The following are identified as outstanding natural features in the District and subject to the rules in this Chapter.

No.	Name Of ONFL Outstanding Natural Features (Sub17.93)	Description	Values (Sub 8.195)
4	Pataua Island	<p>A significant natural habitat within the Ohiwa Harbour, the island resides under Conservation Management.</p> <p>The island also forms part of the Region's only mainland (Ohiwa Harbour) Outstanding Natural character Areas, under the Regional Policy Statement.</p>	<p>Moderate to High Natural Science Factors the island provides a significant wildlife habitat to native flora and fauna with a distinctive indented coastline. The feature is well preserved and forms a significant resource for research and education and conservation monitoring. The island is a rare feature within the harbour and District.</p> <p>High Aesthetic Values with the coherence of natural patterns in good condition, with no productive land use on the island. The unmodified patterns and processes on the island result in a high level of naturalness with a highly intact and aesthetically cohesive natural system.</p> <p>Highly expressive the landform of the natural processes which form it. The island expresses strong transient values with migratory birds and high avifauna values.</p>
5	Waiotahi Spit	<p>The Waiotahi Spit forms significant dune sand spit to the mouth of the Waiotahi Estuary. The large area comprises relatively unmodified duneland landscape with very high natural character values at a regional level.</p>	<p>High Natural Science Factors attributed to the natural dune formation and continuing highly dynamic natural processes that continue within it. The dune landscape is well preserved and forms a significant feature of the overall Waiotahi Estuary feature.</p> <p>High Aesthetic Values attributed to the dune landforms and coherence of this formation with its native vegetation cover including Pohutukawa at the distal end of the spit. A low but significant profile the landform is a feature within the larger Waiotahi Estuary. A very high level of naturalness attributed to its lack of modification and dynamic natural processes continuing within it.</p> <p>Highly expressive of the natural processes that form it and continue to shape it on a daily basis. Transient values attributed to fauna and flora through seasonal change is moderate to high.</p>

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No.	Name Of QNFL Outstanding Natural Features (Sub17.93)	Description	Values (Sub 8.195)
6	Pohutukawa tunnels over State Highway 2 at Waiotahi	A distinct and memorable feature and gateway to the Ōpōtiki township and Waiotahi settlement. The Pohutukawa clad coastal escarpment forms a striking tunnel through which the State Highway passes through. The feature is distinctive and iconic to the District.	<p>Moderate to High Natural Science Factors attributed to the singular grouping of Pohutukawa species along a distinctive coastal escarpment. A rare and distinct feature of the District and Region the public viewing strengthens its iconic status.</p> <p>Moderate to High Aesthetic values attributed to the composition of the Pohutukawa, road and coastal escarpment. The tunnel effect creates a highly coherent and memorable feature of the state highway.</p> <p>Low expressive values attributed to the modification of the landform, however the coastal escarpment is distinct and expressive of the volcanic, tectonic and glacial processes that formed it. The Pohutukawa provide a high transient values particularly through differing light conditions and seasonal flowering.</p>
7	Tarakeha (Opape)	Tarakeha defines the eastern end of the long open Tirohanga beach coastline east of Ōpōtiki township. This forms a gateway into the steeper and rocky coastline that extends to Cape Runaway. This headland along with other similar headlands along the coast are also recognised as areas of Very High Natural character .	<p>Moderate to High Natural science factors Tarakeha provides a steep headland with intact indigenous vegetation cover existing across the entire headland. Whilst not rare it is a distinctive feature that defines the end of an embayment.</p> <p>High Aesthetic values attributed to the prominent headland feature with native vegetation cover extending to meet the coast, uninterrupted. A highly memorable and visually prominent feature at the end of the Tirohanga beach.</p> <p>Moderately expressive the landform is expressive of the volcanic and coastal processes which have shaped it. Transient values are less evident but are attributed to the coastal processes and sea conditions.</p>
8	Haurere Point	Haurere Point defines the western end of the Torere beach and settlement. This headland along with other similar headlands along the coast are also recognised as areas of Very High Natural character .	<p>Moderate to High Natural science factors Haurere provides a steep headland with intact indigenous vegetation cover existing across the entire headland. Whilst not rare it is a distinctive feature that defines the end of an embayment.</p> <p>High Aesthetic values attributed to the prominent headland feature with native vegetation cover extending to meet the coast, uninterrupted. A</p>

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No.	Name Of ONFL Outstanding Natural Features (Sub17.93)	Description	Values (Sub 8.195)
			<p>highly memorable and visually prominent feature.</p> <p>Moderately expressive the landform is expressive of the volcanic and coastal processes which have shaped it. Transient values are less evident but are attributed to the coastal processes and sea conditions.</p>
9	Pehitairi Point	Pehitairi Point defines the eastern end of the Torere beach and settlement. This headland along with other similar headlands along the coast are also recognised as areas of Very High Natural character .	<p>Moderate to High Natural science factors Haurere provides a steep headland with intact indigenous vegetation cover existing across the entire headland. Whilst not rare it is a distinctive feature that defines the end of an embayment.</p> <p>High Aesthetic values attributed to the prominent headland feature with native vegetation cover extending to meet the coast, uninterrupted. A highly memorable and visually prominent feature at the end of the Torere beach.</p> <p>Moderately expressive the landform is expressive of the volcanic and coastal processes which have shaped it. Transient values are less evident but are attributed to the coastal processes and sea conditions.</p>
10 <u>11</u> <u>12</u>	Haumiaroa Point <u>Whituare Bay</u> <u>Maraenui Escarpment (Whituare Bay)</u> <u>(Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)</u>	A collection of individually identified features as one larger feature, this coastline comprises the formation of a coastal escarpment and headlands that extend between Hawaii and Haupoto. Comprising steep coastal escarpments clad with native bush cover the area is identified as having High Natural character at a Regional level.	<p>Moderate to High Natural science factors this coastline provides a steep headland with intact indigenous vegetation cover existing across the entire headland. Whilst not rare it is a distinctive feature that defines the end of an embayment.</p> <p>High Aesthetic values attributed to the prominent headland feature with native vegetation cover extending to meet the coast, uninterrupted. A highly memorable and visually prominent feature at the end of the Torere beach. Cultural paddocks on the terrace contribute to an interplay of an arcadian landscape with the natural coastal edge.</p> <p>Moderately expressive the landform is expressive of the volcanic and coastal processes which have shaped it. Transient values are less evident but are attributed to the coastal processes and sea conditions.</p>
<u>13</u> <u>11</u>	<u>Motu River Mouth</u>	A highly distinctive large river mouth, the Motu River provides a	High Natural Science factors relate to its large scale river mouth and dynamic nature of the river

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No.	Name Of ONFL Outstanding Natural Features (Sub17.93)	Description	Values (Sub 8.195)
	Whituare Bay (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)	braided river mouth alongside a steep bush clad hill range. Identified as an area of Very High Natural character at a Regional level, the extent of the feature resides in part Regional Council and part Ōpōtiki District Council jurisdiction.	<u>which is subject to cumulative and dramatic change. The native bush cover extends to meet the broader native bush of the Raukumuara Range which forms the backdrop to the Ōpōtiki District. The river and the surrounding bush is in a good state of preservation with some modification resulting from river access and the state highway extending over the river.</u> <u>High Aesthetic Values are attributed to the natural patterns of the braided river floor and steep native bush hills to the north of the river. The river and its margins are reknown for its distinctive and memorable landscape and are regionally significant. High naturalness values are attributed to the composition of natural patterns and processes occurring within this feature.</u> <u>Highly expressive of the fluvial processes that have occurred to form it. The transient values are equally high with a constant change occurring with the river and its river bed.</u>
14 12	<u>Orangoihunui Point & Whitianga Bay, Whitianga Bay to Ohae Point</u> <u>Maraenui Escarpment (Whituare Bay)</u> (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)	A large coastline dominated by a rocky shoreline and native vegetation cover. The area extends inland to encompass part of the vegetated coastal ridgeline between Waihapokopoko and Waioria Streams. Identified as having high natural character values at a regional scale.	<u>Moderate to High Natural science factors this coastline provides a steep coastline with small plateau with intact indigenous vegetation cover existing across the entire coastline.</u> <u>High Aesthetic values attributed to the native vegetation cover extending to meet the coast, uninterrupted. A highly memorable and visually prominent coastline with the State Highway extending through the feature. Cultural paddocks and residential dwellings on the terrace contribute to an interplay of an arcadian landscape with the natural coastal edge, disrupting the naturalness of the area.</u> <u>Moderate to highly expressive the landform is expressive of the volcanic and coastal processes which have shaped it. Transient values are less evident but are attributed to the coastal processes and sea conditions.</u>
15	<u>Motunui Island and Associated Reefs</u>	A narrow rocky shoreline iconic of this coastal landscape, the	<u>Moderate to High Natural Science Factors attributed to the small rocky island and shoreline</u>

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No.	Name Of ONFL <u>Outstanding Natural Features</u> (Sub17.93)	Description	<u>Values (Sub 8.195)</u>
<p>13 16</p>	<p><u>Whanarua Bay</u> Motu River Mouth (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)</p>	<p>Pohutukawa clad volcanic rocky shoreline is also identified as having High Natural character at a regional scale. The area excludes the settlement of Whanarua Bay and is aligned to the coastal edge.</p>	<p><u>with pockets of native vegetation cover, being predominantly Pohutukawa. The shoreline plateau is representative of the tectonic and coastal processes that formed this landscape.</u> <u>High Aesthetic Values</u> the rocky shoreline provides a sequence of headlands and embayments atopped with a plateau of cultivated rural productive land use which further accentuates the dominant coastal vegetation. <u>Moderately</u> expressive with intact sequencing of coastal landscape features and transient values attributed to the coastal processes and seasonal flowering of Pohutukawa.</p>
<p>14 17</p>	<p><u>Ruakokere River Mouth</u> Orangoihunui Point & Whitianga Bay, Whitianga Bay to Ohae Point (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)</p>	<p>A distinctive river mouth, lagoon and stoney shore the feature includes the native bush along the river margins and the dune feature at the river mouth.</p>	<p><u>High Natural Science</u> factors relate to its large scale river mouth and dynamic nature of the river which is subject to cumulative and dramatic change. The river and the surrounding bush is in a good state of preservation with some modification resulting from river access and the state highway extending over the river. <u>High Aesthetic Values</u> are attributed to the natural patterns of the braided river floor and native bush hills to the west of the river. High naturalness values are attributed to the composition of natural patterns and processes occurring within this feature. <u>Highly</u> expressive of the fluvial processes that have occurred to form it. The transient values are equally high with a constant change occurring with the river and its river bed.</p>
<p>15 18</p>	<p><u>Oruaiti Beach, offshore rocks and Waikanapanapa cliffs</u> Motunui Island and Associated Reefs (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)</p>	<p>The area extends from a rocky shoreline west of Oruaiti Beach to incorporate the beach, dunes and rocky headland of Te Ahikehe Point and shoreline east of Waikanapanapa. This includes coastal fringe of Pohutukawa but does not extend into the cultivated terrace top paddocks.</p>	<p><u>Moderate to High Natural Science Factors</u> attributed to the coastal dunes and beach and rocky shoreline with pockets of native vegetation cover, being predominantly Pohutukawa. The shoreline plateau is representative of the tectonic and coastal processes that formed this landscape. <u>High Aesthetic Values</u> the rocky shoreline provides a sequence of headlands and embayments atopped with a plateau of cultivated rural productive landuse which further</p>

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No.	Name Of ONFL <u>Outstanding Natural Features</u> (Sub17.93)	Description	<u>Values (Sub 8.195)</u>
			<p>accentuates the dominant coastal vegetation.</p> <p>Moderately expressive with intact sequencing of coastal landscape features and transient values attributed to the coastal processes and seasonal flowering of Pohutukawa.</p>
<p>19 16</p>	<p><u>Whangaparaoa dunefield, wetland and estuary</u></p> <p><u>Whanarua Bay</u> (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)</p>	<p>An extensive coastal duneland with intact cover of vegetation, wetlands and river system backing a long open beach.</p>	<p>High Natural Science Factors attributed to the natural dune formation and continuing highly dynamic natural processes that continue within it.</p> <p>The dune landscape is well preserved and forms a significant feature.</p> <p>High Aesthetic Values attributed to the dune landforms and coherence of this formation with its native vegetation cover including wetland features. A moderate level of naturalness attributed to this landscape</p> <p>Highly expressive of the natural processes that form it and continue to shape it on a daily basis. Transient values attributed to fauna and flora through seasonal change is moderate to high.</p>
<p>20 21 17</p>	<p><u>Kopongatahi Point Cape Runaway</u></p> <p><u>Ruakokere River Mouth</u> (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)</p>	<p>Two ONF features combined to create the broader ONF which is known as Cape Runaway. The headland forms a key landmark to the turning point of the Eastern Bay of Plenty toward East Cape. A dominant headland covered in regenerating native bush cover the headland forms the largest of its kind within the District.</p>	<p>High Natural Science Factors include the rocky shoreline and reefs, Otarawhata Island and the series of coastal headlands and bays including Paparinga and Tikirau. The landform is highly representative of the coastal processes which shape it and is reflective of native vegetation patterns of the coastline.</p> <p>Moderate to High Aesthetic values are attributed to the distinctive and recognisable landform along with the regenerating native bush cover throughout. The naturalness is high and is associated with the natural coastal processes and regenerating native vegetation cover.</p> <p>Moderately expressive the feature currently has low transient values associated with vegetation cover.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p><u>Oruaiti Beach, offshore rocks and Waikanapanapa cliffs</u> (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)</p>	<p>A significant natural habitat within the Ohiwa Harbour, the island resides under Conservation Management.</p> <p>The island also forms part of the</p>	

LANDSCAPES AND VEGETATION

No.	Name Of QNFL Outstanding Natural Features (Sub17.93)	Description	<u>Values</u> (Sub 8.195)
		Region's only mainland (Ohiwa Harbour) Outstanding Natural character Areas, under the Regional Policy Statement, Variation 1.	
19	Whangaparaoa dune field, wetland and estuary (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)	The Waiotahi Spit forms significant dune sand spit to the mouth of the Waiotahi Estuary. The large area comprises relatively unmodified duneland landscape with very high natural character values at a regional level.	
20	Kopongatahi Point (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)	A distinct and memorable feature and gateway to the Ōpōtiki township and Waiotahi settlement. The Pohutukawa clad coastal escarpment forms a striking tunnel through which the State Highway passes through. The feature is distinctive and iconic to the District.	
21	Cape Runaway (Sub 24.76, 8.197, 10.25, 17.93)	Farakeha defines the eastern end of the long open Tirohanga beach coastline east of Ōpōtiki Township. This forms a gateway into the steeper and rocky coastline that extends to Cape Runaway. This headland along with other similar headlands along the coast is also recognised as an area of Very High Natural character .	

13.9.3 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SIGNIFICANT INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS OF INDIGENOUS FAUNA (Sub 8.198)***Representativeness***

3.1 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contains associations of indigenous species representative, typical or characteristic of the natural diversity of the ~~region~~ District or any relevant ecological districts.

Rarity or distinctive features

3.2 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna supports an indigenous species or associations of indigenous species threatened or rare nationally, regionally or within the relevant ecological district.

3.3 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna can contribute to the maintenance or recovery of a species threatened or rare nationally, regionally or within the relevant ecological district.

3.4 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is distinctive, of restricted occurrence, or at the limits of its natural distribution range, or has developed as a result of factors such as natural geothermal activity, historical cultural practices, altitude, water table, or soil type.

3.5 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is one of the largest remaining examples of its type within the ~~region~~ District (Sub 7.81) or any relevant ecological district.

3.6 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is significantly reduced in area and is degraded but retains key natural ecosystem functions (for example hydrology) and has a high potential for restoration.

Diversity and pattern

3.7 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contains a high diversity of indigenous ecosystem or habitat types, or changes in species composition, reflecting the existence of diverse natural features (for example landforms, soil types or hydrology), or communities along an ecological gradient.

Naturalness

3.8 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is in a natural state or healthy condition, or is in an original condition.

Ecological context

3.9 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contributes to the ecological viability of adjoining natural areas and biological communities, by providing or contributing to an important ecological linkage or network, or providing a buffer from adjacent land uses.

3.10 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna provides habitat for indigenous species at key stages of their life cycle.

Viability and sustainability

- 3.11 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is of sufficient size and compact shape and has the capacity to maintain its ecological viability over time.
- 3.12 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna supports intact habitats and healthy functioning ecosystems.
- 3.13 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna can contribute to the maintenance or recovery of a species threatened or rare nationally, regionally or within the relevant ecological district.
- ~~• Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is of sufficient size and compact shape to resist changes initiated by external agents. (Sub 8.198)~~

Māori

- 3.14 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contributes to the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

Historical

- 3.15 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is known and valued for its connection to the history of the place.

Community association

- 3.16 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is known and valued by the immediate and wider community for its contribution to a sense of place leading to community association with or public esteem for the place, or due to its value for recreation or education.
- 3.17 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is valued for the contribution it is making to research into the Bay of Plenty's or New Zealand's ecosystems.

13.9.4 PRIORITY ECOSYSTEMS AND HABITATS FOR PROTECTION

- (a) coastal **dunelands**
- (b) freshwater wetlands
- (c) estuarine vegetation and **habitats**
- (d) **indigenous vegetation** in riparian areas
- (e) **indigenous vegetation** associated with land environments (defined by Land Environments of New Zealand at Level IV) that have 20 percent or less remaining indigenous cover
- (f) forest remnants in Ōpōtiki Ecological District
- (g) remaining **indigenous vegetation** on alluvial flats and terraces in the Tāneatua and Waioeka Ecological District
- (h) large, intact areas of primary and secondary forest
- (i) coastal forest in the Mōtū and Pukeamaru Ecological Districts
- (j) areas of **indigenous vegetation** and **habitats** which connect (provide wildlife corridors) with other areas of **indigenous vegetation**;
- (k) indigenous vegetation associated with 'originally rare' ecosystem types
- (l) habitats of rare and threatened species (particularly, locally endemic, and nationally and regionally threatened species)
- (m) vegetation/ecosystem types that have been significantly reduced relative to their original extent at a local, regional and national level.