

## GENERAL DISTRICT-WIDE MATTERS

# CE – Coastal Environment

## Issues

GEN-I4, GEN-I5, GEN-I6, GEN-I11 [PC65]

## Objectives

CE-O1	To protect the natural character and heritage value of the coastal area from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.  (Refer HH-O1 and ER-O3) [PC65]
CE-O2	To ensure continued public enjoyment of the coast.  (Refer ER-O1, ER-O2)

## Policies

CE-P1	To protect the identified significant natural, cultural and landscape values of the coastal area, including:	
	CE-P1.1	The scenic qualities of the beach and foredunes.
	CE-P1.2	Its ecological values, particularly those of the interdunal lakes, streams and <i>wetlands</i> .
	CE-P1.3	Its recreational value.
	CE-P1.4	Its significance to the Tangata Whenua.
	CE-P1.5	The scientific value of its coastal geology.

	<b>CE-P1.6</b>	Its cultural and archaeological value. <b>[DELETED PC65]</b>
<b>CE-P2</b>	To control the spread of urban development such as at Himatangi Beach and Tangimoana, recognising the following constraints (Refer SUB-O8, NH-O2):	
	<b>CE-P2.1</b>	The potential for sand inundation and erosion at Himatangi Beach.
	<b>CE-P2.2</b>	The possibility of future sea level rise.
	<b>CE-P2.3</b>	Potential impacts upon the above natural and landscape values.
	<b>CE-P2.4</b>	Impact of any growth in Tangimoana upon the ecological value of the adjacent Rangitikei River estuary.
	<b>CE-P2.5</b>	River control and drainage limitations at Tangimoana.
	<b>CE-P2.6</b>	The need to supply adequate sewerage and water supply facilities.
<b>CE-P3</b>	To avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse <i>effects</i> of rural subdivision upon the natural character and ecological value of the coastal area.	
<b>CE-P4</b>	To maintain or enhance public access to the coast and to help provide the facilities which enable people to enjoy it, in a manner which protects sensitive areas and does not detract from the coast's natural character (Refer ER-O2).	
<b>CE-P5</b>	To avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse <i>effects</i> of activities in the coastal area upon people, including public safety.	
<b>CE-P6</b>	To promote restoration planting of sand dunes, preferably using indigenous species if practical, and local genetic stock.	

# Explanation

ASW-O1 follows on from Section 6 of *the Act*. The Regional Policy Statement recognises the District's coastline, namely the beach, foredunes and interdunal lakes and wetlands, as an outstanding landscape. It has a number of other policies relevant to management of the coast. The Government's NZ Coastal Policy Statement also provides some overall direction. It states that "It is important to maintain biological and physical processes in the coastal area in as natural a condition as possible, and to recognise their dynamic, complex and interdependent nature."

*The Act* uses the term "coastal environment" but does not define it. This is understandable since in some places steep coastal cliffs mean that the coastal band is quite thin. In other places like the Manawatū, sand dunes extend inland for 20km. This Plan uses the term "coastal area" to refer to the land within about 4 km of the ocean.

Dune lakes, swamps and young dunes are very poorly represented in the District's coastal area. The coastal strip of the District where sand is still drifting or has been stable for no more than 50 years is particularly important ecologically due to the distinctive plant communities which it supports. It has been identified on the Planning Maps as the "coastal vegetation area" and is subject to special controls on clearance of vegetation for this reason. (Refer HH-APP4). The focus should be on preserving the ecological values of these remaining *natural areas*, and on maintaining open spaces which play an important ecological role along the coastal fringe. Adjacent land uses can have adverse *effects* on *natural areas* and the natural character of the coastal *environment* by eliminating open space, covering dune landforms, or altering the water table of *wetlands*. *Council* will assist bodies such as the Department of Conservation in working alongside landowners to actively protect their *natural areas*.

The NZCPS also states that "it is a national priority to restore and rehabilitate the natural character of the coastal *environment* where appropriate". For example a series of ephemeral wetlands existed behind the foredune prior to the establishment of plantation forestry. These wetlands could be recreated by not replanting this area. As the coastline aggrades, another area of these wetlands can establish.

Coastal management is a "cross-boundary issue" (Refer to: How The Plan Works: Cross Boundary Matters). Responsibility for the beach front is split under *the Act*, with District Councils looking after the area above the high tide mark (Mean High Water Springs) and *Regional Councils* and the Department of Conservation having responsibilities in the area between high tide and the 12 mile limit. The various authorities therefore need to work closely together.

There are a number of good reasons for being cautious about further development in the coastal area. As well as landscape and ecosystem impacts, the potential natural hazards and

servicing constraints justify a policy of limiting urban growth. For these reasons the Plan's rule allowing possible development of rural house allotments (down to 4000 m<sup>2</sup> in size) as a *discretionary activity* around many of the District's villages does not apply to Himatangi Beach or Tangimoana. Likewise rural subdivision in the coastal area has been made a *discretionary activity* so that its impact upon the coastal *environment* can be assessed (Refer SUB-R13 to SUB-R20).

## Methods

### District Plan Methods

- SETZ, GRUZ, SUB, and ER chapters
- GRUZ-R33 and NH-R18

### Other Methods

- Complementary Regional Rules for the beach and coastal marine area.
- Discussions with coastal landowners about protection of their *natural areas* and about the possibility of not replanting trees behind the foredune to allow dune wetlands to re-establish.
- Public education and information about access to coastal areas.
- Bylaws and education to help minimise the impact of *off-road* vehicles.