

NFL - NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

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NFL - NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

Introduction

The Manawatū District is home to a range of natural features and landscapes worthy of recognition and protection. As landscapes they contribute to the identity of the Manawatū, and particularly for those people who reside in and visit the Manawatū.

The District's landscapes extend from the expansive and densely vegetated Ruahine Ranges through to the deep, meandering river valleys and terraces of the various rivers within the District through to the undeveloped coastal foredunes of the Manawatū coastline.

The purpose of this chapter is to:

- a. Recognise and protect outstanding natural features and landscapes (ONFLs) from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. (Section 6(b) of the Act).
- b. Recognise those areas of the District that do not meet the criteria for Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes but have amenity values and characteristics that distinguish them from the wider rural area as Significant Amenity Features. (Section 7(c) of the Act).
- c. Respond to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and the One Plan, including the Regional Policy Statement requirements to identify and protect ONFLs.

Council has identified two (2) Outstanding Natural Landscapes, thirteen (13) Outstanding Natural Features, and three (3) Significant Amenity Features. Each ONFL has its own characteristics and values which justify their classification as outstanding and make their use, development and protection important when considering future management of these areas. Each area is mapped as an overlay.

For activities involving Network Utilities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features the provisions in Chapter 3A Network Utilities apply and prevail over this chapter. Earthworks associated with network utilities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks. These provisions prevail over the provisions contained within this chapter.

Objectives

NFL-O1

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are identified within the Manawatū District.

Relevant policies 1, 2

NFL-O2

The characteristics and values of the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Relevant policies 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

NFL-O3

The characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are protected from the fragmentation of ownership arising from subdivision.

Relevant policies 14, 15

NFL-O4

Enhance the characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and maintain or enhance Significant Amenity Features.

Relevant policies 16, 17, 18

Policies

NFL-P1

To identify the characteristics and values, and spatially define Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes consistent with the following criteria:

- a. Natural science factors
- b. Aesthetic values
- c. Expressiveness (Legibility)
- d. Transient values
- e. Shared and recognised values
- f. Cultural and spiritual values for tangata whenua
- g. Historic heritage values.

NFL-P2

To identify and spatially define Significant Amenity Features.

NFL-P3

To avoid inappropriate use and development within Outstanding Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 which adversely affects the identified values and characteristics of the areas, including:

- a. The extensive unbuilt coastal strip along the Manawatū Coastline Outstanding Natural Landscape.
- b. The unmodified and continuous indigenous vegetation values and the ridges and hilltops of the Ruahine Ranges Outstanding Natural Landscape.

NFL-P4

To restrict the use and development within Outstanding Natural Features identified in NFL-APP1 except where it is demonstrated that the identified characteristics and values of the area are protected and maintained.

NFL-P5

To enable the continuation of farming activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features.

NFL-P6

To provide for new farming activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features where those activities are appropriate and safeguard the characteristics and values of the area.

NFL-P7

To avoid significant adverse cumulative effects from use and development on the characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P8

Except as required by NFL-P7, avoid adverse effects on Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes as far as reasonably practicable and where avoidance is not reasonably practicable, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P9

To enable passive recreation, conservation and customary activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 where this does not adversely affect the characteristics and values of those areas.

NFL-P10

To avoid the development of new buildings or structures within Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P11

To restrict the development of new buildings or structures within an Outstanding Natural Feature where these are visible from a public space and create a visual intrusion or have an adverse effect on characteristics and values of the feature identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P12

To restrict the removal of indigenous vegetation from Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P13

To restrict the introduction of exotic vegetation species, including forestry, within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 and Significant Amenity Features identified in NFL-APP2.

NFL-P14

To avoid subdivision within Outstanding Natural Landscapes except where the fragmentation of land does not significantly affect the characteristics and values of the Landscape identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P15

To restrict subdivision within Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Amenity Features where the fragmentation of land would adversely affect the characteristics and values of the Feature identified in NFL-APP1.

NFL-P16

To protect existing indigenous vegetation.

NFL-P17

To encourage restoration and planting with locally sourced indigenous species appropriate to the ecological area within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features.

NFL-P18

To restrict use and development within Significant Amenity Features to those activities which do not adversely affect the characteristics and values identified in NFL-APP2.

Rules

Unless otherwise stated, rules in this chapter apply to all activities within the areas identified as being Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and Significant Amenity Features as spatially defined in Appendix NFL-APP1 and NFL-APP2. For activities involving Network Utilities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, the more specific provisions in Chapter 3A Network Utilities apply. Earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks.

Permitted Activities

The following activities are Permitted Activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features:

NFL-R1 The use and maintenance of existing tracks and walkways for passive recreation, conservation, and customary activities within public areas.

Guidance Note: The provisions in this Plan do not allow public access across privately owned land. Permission of the landowner is required when wanting to access areas through private land.

NFL-R2 Planting and restoration of indigenous vegetation within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features using indigenous species appropriate to the ecological area.

NFL-R3 Removal and control of weeds and pests, including wildling pines.

NFL-R4 Fencing off of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes.

NFL-R5 Indigenous vegetation clearance only for the purpose of:

- 1) Clearance of up to 1m from a fence designed for the exclusions of stock and or pests
- 2) The gathering of plants in accordance with Māori customs and traditions
- 3) Removal of vegetation that endangers human life, existing structures or network utilities
- 4) Maintaining existing roads, tracks or fences and the clearance is within 1m either side of that road, track or fence.

Guidance Note: Trimming of vegetation near electricity transmission lines shall comply with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.

NFL-R6 Maintenance of existing lawfully established structures as at 7 February 2020.

NFL-R7 Construction and use of buildings and structures within the Totara Reserve Regional Park no greater than 50m² in area.

NFL-R8 Continuation of existing farming within Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features and Significant Amenity Features as at 7 February 2020.

NFL-R9 Construction and use of new farm buildings and structures within the Rangitīkei River Outstanding Natural Feature that are no higher than 4m, no greater than 60m², and setback from any property boundary by 1.5m.

NFL-R10 Construction, use and maintenance of tracks for the purpose of farm tracks and passive recreation up to 1.8m wide within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape or a Significant Amenity Feature.

NFL-R11 Earthworks associated with a permitted activity listed in NFL-R1 – NFL-R10 above and consistent with Rule 3D.4.2.

NFL-R12 Temporary Military Training Activities where no indigenous vegetation disturbance or clearance, or earthworks is undertaken.

Guidance Notes:

1. Except as provided for in NFL-R11, earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are specifically provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks.
2. Earthworks, gravel extraction, vegetation clearance and activities affecting indigenous biodiversity habitat are also regulated by the Manawatū Whanganui Regional Council and a resource consent may be required under the rules of the One Plan.

Controlled Activities

The following activities are Controlled Activities

NFL-R13 New Plantation Forestry within a Significant Amenity Feature

For this activity the Council has controlled its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MC1** The effects on the visual amenity values of the Significant Amenity Feature, including any future effects from plantation forestry activities.

Restricted Discretionary Activities

The following activities are Restricted Discretionary Activities:

- NFL-R14** Development, including ancillary earthworks, consistent with the Reserve Act status or relevant Management Plan for the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.

For these activities, the Council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MD1** Effects, including cumulative effects, on the characteristics and values of the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape identified in NFL-APP1.
- MD2** Bulk and location of any buildings
- MD3** Sighting and visibility of buildings from public viewing locations.

- NFL-R15** The extraction of gravel from the river beaches adjacent to the Rangitikei River and the subsequent stockpiling on the lower terraces of Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature.

The Council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MD4** Effects, including cumulative effects, on the characteristics and values of the Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature.
- MD5** The impacts of any gravel extraction on cultural values associated with the Rangitikei River, including Mauri of the River.

- NFL-R16** Domestic scale micro hydro activities within an Outstanding Natural Landscape or Feature is a Restricted Discretionary Activity.

The Council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters:

- MD6** Effects, including cumulative effects, on the characteristics and values of the specific Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape identified in NFL-APP1.

Discretionary Activities

The following activities are Discretionary Activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Amenity Features:

- NFL-R17** Subdivision within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Significant Amenity Feature as identified in NFL-APP1 or NFL-APP2.
- NFL-R18** Construction, alteration or addition of buildings, or new farm tracks and passive recreation tracks greater than 1.8m wide within an Outstanding Natural Feature and Significant Amenity Feature as identified in NFL-APP1 or NFL-APP2.
- NFL-R19** New farming within Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Amenity Features.

Non-Complying Activities

The following activities are Non-Complying Activities:

- NFL-R20** Construction, alteration or addition of buildings within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1.
- NFL-R21** Subdivision within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1.
- NFL-R22** New farming within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1.
- NFL-R23** New Plantation Forestry within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape.
- NFL-R24** Any activity not otherwise provided for as a Permitted, Restricted Discretionary or Discretionary Activity.

Guidance Note

1. Except as provided for by Rule NFL-R9, earthworks within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes are provided for in Chapter 3D Earthworks.
2. The National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (2017) also applies to activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and a resource consent may also be required under those provisions.