

**SHOULD WE
be restricting
activities on
land to protect
the Districts
landscapes?**

PROTECTING OUR UNIQUE LANDSCAPES

Our landscapes and natural environment are precious, but we've not always provided for them in the District Plan.

Working with experts, we've identified new significant natural areas and for the first time outstanding natural landscapes and features.

Significant natural areas are those that include the district's indigenous flora and fauna resources that we want to protect.

Sadly, in our district there aren't many of these areas left and we've worked with technical experts to provide an informed understanding of the location and extent of these. Our plan proposes special provisions that ensure these significant natural areas are protected.

To identify our outstanding natural landscapes and features, a Landscape Architect has carried out a district wide landscape assessment, as well as an assessment of the natural character of the coastal environment. We've identified one outstanding natural landscape and 11 natural features that we want to protect into the future. Areas of high natural

character on the coast have also been identified.

The draft District Plan introduces a range of provisions to protect these special landscapes and features, from the potential effects of development.

We also know it is important to our community that we provide for public access to the margins of our lakes, rivers and the coast through processes like subdivision. This is an important part of the draft District Plan and something that came through strongly from community feedback during Project Thrive.

If you'd like to learn more about how our draft District Plan proposes to protect our unique landscapes and significant natural areas head to Chapter 8. Also see our landscape assessments and our natural heritage assessment document.

"I'm proud that this community will be protecting our unique landscapes and natural areas – a privilege that I've grown up with and now my children get to enjoy"

Matt Oliver, Otane



Lake Whatuma – identified as one of many significant natural areas.



The Silver Range has been identified as proposed Outstanding Natural Features in our draft District Plan.



Together we Thrive! E ora ngātahi ana!



**CENTRAL
HAWKE'S BAY**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

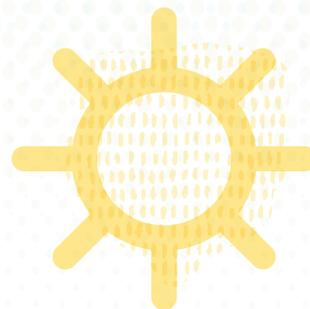
SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

THE ISSUES

- In New Zealand, we are continuing to lose valued parts of our natural heritage, and Central Hawke's Bay is no different.
- The Resource Management Act makes the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, a matter of national importance.
- There is a relatively small amount of remaining indigenous cover in Central Hawke's Bay – approximately 10%.
- Over time, subdivision, land use and development has fragmented and isolated those remaining habitats.
- Any remaining habitats are largely thanks to vegetation within the Department of Conservation Estate and the efforts of private landowners who have voluntarily sought to protect areas on their land themselves, through QEII covenants and Nga Whenua Rahui kawenata (covenants), for example.
- A key focus of Project Thrive is 'Protecting and Promoting our Unique Landscape' and 'Strengthening our District Identity'.
- Community feedback highlighted a concern about a lack of protection of the District's natural beauty and of the District's remaining native vegetation.

DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN RESPONSE

- In response, as part of the District Plan Review, Council commissioned Kessels Ecology/Tonkin & Taylor Ltd to carry out a desktop review of the sites already contained in the current District Plan.
- This review identified a number of modifications and potential additional sites for inclusion in the draft District Plan.
- These have been mapped and feedback is being sought from the relevant affected landowners.
- We acknowledge that some new potential significant natural areas may not be correct – whether the type of vegetation or area, and we seek landowners feedback on this.

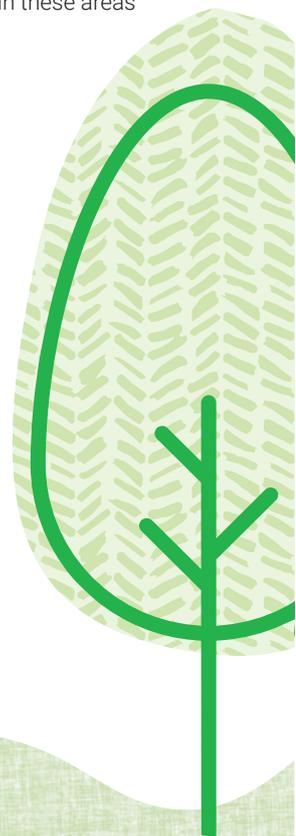


WHAT DOES HAVING AN SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA ON YOUR PROPERTY MEAN FOR LANDOWNERS?

- Business as usual – day-to-day rural activities can continue.
- The draft District Plan builds on existing provisions in the current District Plan relating to the trimming, modification or removal of indigenous vegetation within Significant Natural Areas beyond certain thresholds.
- In many circumstances, a resource consent will continue to be required from Council for trimming, modification and removal of indigenous vegetation within these areas in the future.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS NOW?

- Landowners can provide feedback on the form provided to them about the extent of the Significant Natural Areas on their property.
- Anyone can make a submission on the draft District Plan and have the opportunity to present their submission in person.



OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES & HIGH NATURAL CHARACTER AREAS

THE ISSUES

- In Central Hawke's Bay, many of the District's natural landscapes and features have been modified over time, impacting on the District's unique character and identity.
- The Resource Management Act requires both the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and the protection of outstanding natural features (ONF) and outstanding natural landscapes (ONL) from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, matters of national importance.
- The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010, requires the identification of areas of high natural character in the coastal environment in a review of a District Plan.
- The current District Plan does not identify any outstanding natural features or landscapes or areas of high natural character in Central Hawke's Bay.
- A key focus of Project Thrive is 'Protecting and Promoting our Unique Landscape' and 'Strengthening our District Identity'.
- Community feedback highlighted a desire to protect and promote the District's unique landscape and identified a concern about a lack of protection of the District's natural beauty.

DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN RESPONSE

- As part of the District Plan Review, Council commissioned Hudson Associates to complete a landscape assessment of the District.
- This assessment identified one Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL – Ruahine Range) and 11 Outstanding Natural Features (ONFs) for inclusion in the draft District Plan.
- Hudson Associates were also commissioned to complete a natural character assessment of the District's coastal environment.
- This assessment identified eight High Natural Character Areas (HNCAs) for inclusion in the draft District Plan.
- This is the first time that outstanding natural landscapes and features and high natural character areas have been identified and mapped in Central Hawke's Bay.
- Feedback is being sought from the relevant affected landowners and the wider community.

WHAT DOES HAVING AN ONF/ONL OR HNCA ON YOUR PROPERTY MEAN FOR LANDOWNERS?

- Business as usual – your day to day activities can continue.
- The draft District Plan contains new proposed limits and/or provisions. These include:
 - limitations to buildings that exceed 25m² in floor area or 3 metres in height
 - earthworks that exceed 200m³
 - subdivision within these ONF, ONL and HNCA's
- In some circumstances, a resource consent will be required from Council for particular works within these ONF's, ONL and HNCA's in the future.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS NOW?

- Landowners can provide feedback on the form provided to them about the ONF's, ONL and HNCA's.
- Anyone can make a submission on the draft District Plan and have the opportunity to present their submission in person.





OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES

Of the 11 outstanding natural features, a notable example is:

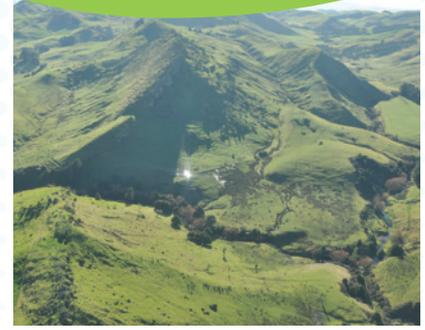
- **The Three Sisters**

This landform is a group of seven uplifted tilted limestone hills, with classic exposed limestone crust. They have high aesthetic values, with their highly legible tilted landforms, limestone edges and rock fields.

The sites have extremely high cultural values, in particular relating to Horehore Pa and an association with this area by Maori for 500 years.



An oblique photo of part of the three sisters – Outstanding Natural Feature, looking East.



Aerial oblique photo of Te Whata Kokako, part of the three sisters – Outstanding Natural Feature, looking North.



The Three Sisters – Outstanding Natural Feature, looking West.



Puketotata, site of Horehore Pa, part of the Three Sisters – Outstanding Natural Feature.

HIGH NATURAL CHARACTER AREAS

The following are two of eight High Natural Character Areas identified in the draft District Plan.

ARAMOANA – TE ANGIANGI

This area has high natural character due to the estuarine processes and vegetation that exist, its high potential ecological values and limited modification, despite its proximity to the nearby settlement.



Natural Character Assessment.



Natural Character Assessment.



Natural Character Assessment.

WHANGAEHU

This area has very high natural character, due to a combination of its geology and resulting topography, how expressive the formative processes have been and its regenerating native vegetation – all of which has had very limited human modification.

You can read more about the High Natural Character Areas and Outstanding Natural Landscape and Features by reading our supporting documents at www.chbdc.govt.nz

