

Chapter 13

Earthworks, Landscapes, Indigenous Vegetation and Habitats



13. EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

ADVICE NOTE:

This chapter applies to activities in outstanding natural features and landscapes identified in 13.9.1 and 13.9.2 and to earthworks and disturbance of indigenous vegetation across all zones.

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 *plantation 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 *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. They 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, *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 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*.
- 13.2.1.2 Outside the *Coastal Environment* adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development, including *buildings*, structures and earthworks, on the values of outstanding natural features and landscapes are avoided and, where avoidance is not practicable, remedied or mitigated.
- 13.2.1.3 Continuation of existing *rural production activities* is recognised.
- 13.2.1.4 Change in vegetation patterns and land contour as a result of land use change associated with new activities such as *plantation forestry* or other crops is managed to minimise adverse effects to maintain or enhance the landscape values of outstanding *natural features and landscapes* identified on the Planning Maps and Appendices 13.9.1 and 13.9.2.
- 13.2.1.5 Development of multiple-owned *Māori land* is enabled in a manner consistent with the protection of *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.

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. This includes maintaining the overall extent of rare and threatened ecosystem types.

POLICIES

- 13.2.2.1 To avoid adverse effects of activities on indigenous biological diversity in the *Coastal Environment* that is identified under Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- 13.2.2.2 To protect significant *indigenous vegetation* and significant *habitats* of indigenous fauna, where significance is assessed in accordance with the criteria in Appendix 13.9.3.

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- 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.
- 13.2.2.5 Outside the *Coastal Environment*:
- (a) avoid, or where this is not practicable, remedy, mitigate or offset the adverse effects of activities on indigenous *biodiversity*;
 - (b) protect indigenous *ecosystems*, rare, at risk, or threatened species;
 - (c) maintain the overall extent of rare and threatened ecosystem types;
 - (d) require restoration and rehabilitation of significant *indigenous vegetation* and habitats of indigenous fauna on or off the *site*, giving priority to the habitats and ecosystem types listed in 13.9.4 and by reference to the criteria in Appendix 13.9.3.
- 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.
- 13.2.2.7 To promote the restoration of *ecosystems* that have been damaged or degraded to ensure their continued viability.
- 13.2.2.8 To use *riparian management areas* to protect and restore whitebait spawning *habitats*.
- 13.2.2.9 To encourage the restoration and enhancement of riparian margins to support indigenous flora and fauna *habitats*.
- 13.2.2.10 Avoid adverse effects of deer and goat *farming* through application of goat *farming* management areas and fencing standards for farmed deer and goats.
- 13.2.2.11 To restrict vehicle access to the coast, rivers and their margins in accordance with NZCPS Policy 20(1)(b).
- 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.**
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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 avoid adverse effects on *wetlands* and encourage opportunities for restoration and rehabilitation including but not limited to conditions on resource consents requiring restoration or rehabilitation of *wetlands* on or off the site.
- 13.2.3.3 To maintain and enhance the overall extent of *wetlands* through controlling inappropriate activities and promoting best land use practice.
- 13.2.3.4 To encourage the restoration and rehabilitation of *wetlands*.

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 Preserve the natural character of the *Coastal Environment* and protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- 13.2.4.2 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 To restrict vehicle access to the coast, rivers and their margins in accordance with NZCPS Policy 20(1)(a).

13.2.5 OBJECTIVE

Enable national or regional responses to biosecurity incursions and allow for the appropriate management of plants and plant material infected by an unwanted organism.

POLICY

- 13.2.5.1 Enable disposal of plants and plant material infected by unwanted organisms, including ancillary earthworks, carried out as directed by a person authorised under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

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. Additional controls may apply in the Zone and other chapters.

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

- P = Permitted Activity**
C = Controlled Activity
RD = Restricted Discretionary Activity
D = Discretionary Activity
NC = Non-Complying Activity

	<u>Rule</u>	13.9.1 Outstanding Natural Landscapes	13.9.2 Outstanding Natural Features
	Rural Production Activities		
1.	Existing <i>lawfully established rural production activities</i> including <i>plantation forestry</i> where the effects are the same or similar in character, intensity and scale to those which existed before the proposed plan was notified (20 September 2016)	P	P
2.	<i>New Plantation Forestry</i>	D	D
3.	<i>Mining and quarrying.</i>	D	D
4.	<i>Agriforestry</i> , including establishment and/or harvesting of planted mānuka.	P	D
5.	Land based <i>aquaculture</i> , subject to compliance with 13.6.3.	P	D
6.	Exotic weed and pest animal control and eradication programmes	P	P
	Buildings and Structures		
7.	New <i>buildings accessory</i> to existing <i>farming</i> activities, subject to compliance with 13.6.3.	P	RD
8.	Maintenance and replacement of existing lawfully established <i>buildings</i> and structures, subject to compliance with 13.6.3.	P	P
9.	New <i>buildings</i> and structures where the highest point of the <i>building</i> or structure is within 5 metres vertical distance of natural ground level on a ridgeline.	D	D

13.3.2 INDIGENOUS VEGETATION CLEARANCE

The rules for Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding Natural Features and the Coastal Environment take priority over the zone rules and the more stringent activity status applies to activities. Additional rules may apply in Chapter 14 to notable trees, and in Chapter 17 to earthworks within the National Grid yard and to other network utilities.

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	Pohutukawa							
1.	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 <i>Council</i> before work commences, confirming that the work is necessary and outlining the methodology	P	P	P	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 <i>Council</i> before work commences	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
3	Clearance or <i>disturbance</i> of any pohutukawa tree	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
	Indigenous Vegetation Disturbance in IBDA							
4	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> within an IBDA A identified in the BOP Regional Coastal Environment Plan	-	-	D	-	-	-	-
5	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> within an IBDA B identified in the BOP Regional Coastal Environment Plan	-	-	RD	-	-	-	-
	All Other Indigenous Vegetation							
6	Conservation planting and management of	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	<i>indigenous vegetation</i> , including replanting and rehabilitation							
7.	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> (excluding disturbance within wetlands, indigenous estuarine vegetation or sand dune land vegetation) which affects an area less than 100m ² in any 12 month period, except as listed below	P	D	D	P	P	P	Refer Rule 13.3.2.14 & 15 below
8.	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> , where necessary to provide for a stable <i>building</i> platform for a <i>dwelling</i> and access, and no alternative locations are available within the site.	RD	RD	Refer Rule 13.3.2.7-	Refer Rule 13.3.2.11 below	Refer Rule 13.3.2.11 below	Refer Rule 13.3.2.11 below	Refer Rule 13.2.3.14 & 15 below
9	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> , in addition to the activities specified above where: (a) It is the removal of naturally regenerating <i>indigenous vegetation</i> that is less than 3.5 metres in height and that has regenerated following clearance in the past ten years for <i>farming</i> purposes and further clearance is required to maintain an existing <i>farming</i> operation- (b) It is required to maintain an existing fence line and is within 2m of the	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	<p>fence line.</p> <p>(c) It is for maintenance of open space within 5m from an existing lawfully established <i>building</i>.</p> <p>(d) It is the removal of <i>indigenous vegetation</i> under or on the edges of an existing <i>plantation forest</i>, including skid sites, the edges of forest roads, 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.</p> <p>(e) It is within the existing formation width to maintain, existing walking and cycling tracks, driveways, public or private <i>roads</i>, and farm and forestry tracks.</p> <p>(f) The sustainable harvest of plant material for rongoa Maori (customary medicine), raranga (weaving) and mahi whakairo (carving)</p> <p>(a) Trimming indigenous vegetation to comply with the requirements of the Electricity (Hazards</p>							

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	from Trees) Regulations 2003 or its successor or where required for the operation, maintenance, upgrade or development of the National Grid							
10.	<p><i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> in addition to the activities specified above where in accordance with statute, covenants or other legal instruments including:</p> <p>(a) Consent Notice or covenant for the protection of <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and <i>habitats</i> with the Council;</p> <p>(b) 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</p> <p>(c) Covenant for the protection of <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and <i>habitats</i> approved by Department of Conservation,</p> <p>(d) Covenant for the protection of indigenous</p>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	<p>vegetation and habitats with the QEII Trust;</p> <p>(e) Covenant for the protection of <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and <i>habitats</i> with Ngā Whenua Rāhui;</p> <p>(f) Covenant for the protection of <i>indigenous vegetation</i> and <i>habitats</i> empowered under Treaty claims settlement legislation.; and</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>							
11.	<p><i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> for new <i>buildings</i> and <i>building</i> 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 <i>building</i> consent has been issued and where there is</p>	Refer Rule 13.3.2.8 above	Refer Rule 13.3.2.8 above	Refer Rule 13.3.2.8 above	RD	RD	RD	Refer 13.3.2.1 4 & 15 below

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	<p>no existing <i>building</i> 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.</p>							
12.	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> for the construction of new walking and cycling tracks up to 1.5m wide	C	C	C	=	=	=	=
13.	<i>Disturbance of indigenous estuarine vegetation or coastal dune land vegetation</i>	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
14.	<p><i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> in the Rural Zone and not within a site listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2, the <i>Coastal Environment</i>, Coastal, Coastal Settlement or Ōhiwa Harbour Zones:</p> <p>a. in the Ōpōtiki or Taneātua Ecological Districts, where the sum of all clearance in any five year period shall not exceed 400m²; or</p> <p>b. in the Waioeka, Motu or Pukeamaru Ecological Districts, where the sum of</p>	=	=	=	-	-	-	P

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
	all clearance in any five year period shall not exceed 2000m ²							
15.	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> in the Rural Zone and not within a site listed in 13.9.1 or 13.9.2 or in the <i>Coastal Environment</i> that does not comply with 13.3.2.14							RD
16.	<i>Indigenous vegetation disturbance</i> over 100m ² within a 12 month period, except as otherwise provided for as a Permitted or Controlled Activity.	D	D	NC	RD	RD	RD	RD
17.	Removal and disposal, including ancillary earthworks, of plants and plant material infected by unwanted organisms carried out as directed by a person authorised under the Biosecurity Act 1993.	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
18.	Disturbance of vegetation within <i>wetlands</i>	D	D	NC	D	D	D	D

Advice Note: The Bay of Plenty Regional Council controls the modification of wetlands. Advice must be sought from the Regional Council prior to undertaking any activity in a wetland. A resource consent may be required for wetland modification, use of a wetland or disturbance of vegetation.

13.3.3 EARTHWORKS

The rules for Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding Natural Features and the Coastal Environment take priority over the zone rules and the more stringent activity status applies to activities. Additional rules apply in Chapter 17 to earthworks within the National Grid Yard and to other network utilities

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

	Rule	Outstanding Natural Landscapes in 13.9.1	Outstanding Natural Features in 13.9.2	Coastal Environment Overlay	Coastal	Coastal Settlement	Ōhiwa Harbour	Rural
1.	Earthworks complying with 13.6.2	P	D	P	P	P	P	P
2.	Earthworks for the following purposes: (a) Normal <i>farming</i> , agricultural and horticultural practices, such as ploughing, cultivation, harvesting crops, planting trees, root ripping, digging post holes, (b) Maintenance of drains and troughs and the installation and maintenance of associated pipe networks, and realignment of fencelines associated with normal <i>farming</i> practices; (c) Earthworks in association with an approved subdivision or for an activity which is authorised by resource consent and earthworks design forms an integral part of the application and consent conditions; (d) Earthworks including land preparation and vegetation clearance undertaken as part of an existing plantation forest. (e) Maintenance of existing walking tracks, farm and forestry tracks, driveways, <i>roads</i> and accessways within the same formation width	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
3.	<i>Land Preparation for Horticultural Planting</i> in the Coastal Zone in accordance with 13.6.2.5	NA	NA	NA	P	NA	NA	NA
4.	Earthworks for the construction of new walking and cycling tracks up to 1.5m wide subject to compliance with 13.6.2	C	C	P	P	P	P	P
5.	Earthworks that do not comply with the standard in 13.6.2	D	D	RD	RD	NA	RD	NA

13.3.4 PEST ANIMALS

The following activities apply across all zones

	Pest Animals	
1.	Keeping, holding, or <i>farming</i> of wallaby species.	Pro
2.	Keeping, holding, or <i>farming</i> of ferrets, stoats and weasels	Pro

13.4 CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES: MATTERS OVER WHICH CONTROL IS RESERVED

13.4.1 Indigenous vegetation disturbance and earthworks provided for as Controlled Activity

The Council has reserved control over the following 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

13.4.1.2 Effects of earthworks

The effects of any earthworks on the surrounding environment, including waahi tapu, sites of cultural significance, ecosystems, ecological or landscape values, any alteration to the contours of the site, stormwater management, overland flow paths, siltation and sedimentation effects, and any effects on the stability of the coastal dune system.

13.5 RESTRICTED DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES: MATTERS OVER WHICH DISCRETION IS RESTRICTED

13.5.1 Council has restricted its discretion over the following matters:

13.5.2 EARTHWORKS NOT COMPLYING WITH 13.6.2

1. The extent to which the activity changes the coastal land form and the stability of the coastal dune system.
2. The extent to which the activity detracts from the visual character of the coastal environment
3. The extent to which the activity avoids significant adverse effects, and avoids, remedies or mitigates other adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment.
4. The degree of alteration to the contours of the site and effects on overland flow paths.
5. How stormwater will be managed to avoid or minimise siltation and sedimentation effects.
6. The effects of any *earthworks* and land disturbance on waahi tapu, sites of cultural significance, or landscape value.
7. The significance of the *earthworks* in relation to landform of landscapes or features listed in 13.9.1 and 13.9.2, the effect on landscape values, and whether the activity will adversely affect significant indigenous biodiversity e.g. by enabling vehicle access or the introduction of weeds and pests to significant wildlife breeding sites.
8. Ecosystems and ecological values.
9. Re-vegetation and/or planting.
10. The benefits of and necessity for the activity and alternative methods and locations available for applicants to carry out the works or activities.

13.5.3 DISTURBANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION WITHIN IBDA

1. The scale and location of the 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 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 including the introduction of pests and vehicle disturbance.
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 and pest control)
16. Site restoration and enhancement programmes
17. Development of a monitoring programme to gauge effects of the activity on ecological values
18. The benefits of and necessity for the activity and alternative methods and locations available for applicants to carry out the works or activities.
19. Pest control programme to be implemented.

13.5.4 DISTURBANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION WITHIN IBDA B

1. The location, timing, duration and extent of indigenous vegetation disturbance;
2. The location, timing, duration and extent of impact on any threatened species;
3. The protection of any of the following:
 - i. nationally rare or threatened ecosystem types;
 - ii. nationally at risk or threatened species, and regionally distinctive/endemic species;
 - iii. areas and routes important to migratory species;

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- iv. habitats important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;
 - v. priority ecosystems and habitats listed in 13.9.4;
 - vi. indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are only found in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass and saltmarsh;
 - vii. ecological corridors, and areas important for linking or maintaining priority ecosystems and habitats listed in 13.9.4, and in the *Coastal Environment*;
 - viii. habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes –including the *Coastal Environment*
 - ix. areas assessed as significant in relation to 13.9.3 and 13.9.4.
4. The sustainability of any harvesting, including the rate and extent of any clearance;
 5. The impact of any disturbance on any ecosystem, including its long term sustainability;
 6. The degree and appropriateness of any mitigation offered to provide on-going protection, maintenance, and restoration of indigenous ecosystems and habitats, including but not limited to legal protection, fencing, planting of indigenous species, and plant and animal pest control;
 7. The cumulative effects of vegetation disturbance, subdivision, and walkways/cycleways on indigenous ecosystems, habitats, and threatened species;
 8. The degree of fragmentation of any ecosystem.
 9. The need to restrict vehicle access to the beach in sensitive locations including bird nesting areas.

Advice Note: The criteria above will be considered when assessing applications for indigenous vegetation disturbance within IBDA A as a Discretionary Activity.

13.5.5 NEW BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN 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.

13.6 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

These Standards apply, unless otherwise stated, to all permitted, controlled and restricted discretionary activities, unless otherwise stated. They will be used as a guideline when assessing applications for discretionary and non-complying activities.

13.6.1 VEGETATION DISTURBANCE IN OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES OR LANDSCAPES

13.6.1.1 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.

13.6.2 EARTHWORKS

13.6.2.1 Earthworks undertaken in a site listed in 13.9.1 shall comply with all the following performance standards:

1. The total area shall not exceed 400m²;
2. The total volume shall not exceed 200m³;
3. The maximum cut and/or fill face shall not exceed 3m;
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.

13.6.2.2 In the Ōhiwa Harbour Zone and in the *Coastal Environment* Overlay *earthworks* shall not exceed 400m² in area and 200m³ in volume in any 12 month period.

13.6.2.3 In the Coastal Zone *earthworks* visible from a public *road*, public reserve, coastal marine area or the foreshore shall not exceed 400m² in area and 200m³ in volume in any 12 month period.

13.6.2.4 *Earthworks* altering land contours for horticultural planting where the land is already in rural production in the Coastal Zone outside the *Coastal Environment* shall comply with the following standards:

1. Where the *earthworks* are visible from a public road, public reserve, coastal marine area or the foreshore, exposed earth 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 within six months of *earthworks* commencing.
2. Ensure the retention of natural overland flow paths exiting the site

13.6.2.5 The standards in 13.6.2.1 to 13.6.2.3 above shall not apply to *earthworks* listed in 13.3.3.2 or 13.3.3.3.

13.6.2.6 Non-compliance with the above rules shall be considered as a Restricted Discretionary except in sites listed in 13.9.1 where non-compliance is considered as a Discretionary Activity.

Advice Note:

Earthworks in sites listed in 13.9.2 are considered as a Discretionary Activity at any scale and resource consent is required.

13.6.3 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN SITES LISTED IN 13.9.1 OR 13.9.2

13.6.3.1 Buildings and structures in a site listed in 13.9.1 and 13.9.2 shall comply with the following performance standards:

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;
2. The highest point of new *buildings* and structures, including rooflines, shall be a minimum of 5m below the natural ground level of any *ridgeline*;
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;
4. The maximum *height* of new *buildings* and structures shall be 7m.

13.6.4 VEGETATION DISTURBANCE AND ANCILLARY EARTHWORKS IN ASSOCIATION WITH A RESPONSE UNDER THE BIOSECURITY ACT 1993

1. Vegetation disturbance and ancillary *earthworks* shall comply with the following standard:
 - a. There shall be a minimum 50m setback from the Coastal Marine Area or a waterbody to minimise risk of leachate reaching the water and sediment discharge resulting from earthworks.

Advice Note: Consent may be required from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for the removal of indigenous vegetation and for earthworks.

13.7 OTHER METHODS

13.7.1 Other methods for achieving the objectives and policies of this section are:

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 II 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 Ngā Whenua Rāhui 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.
8. Council development of a plan change for the mapping and inventory of areas of significant *indigenous vegetation* and *habitats* of significant indigenous fauna within and outside the *Coastal Environment* and a rule framework for the areas identified through that process to be developed in consultation with the community.
9. To control vehicle access to the beach through the 2020 reviewed Council Beach Bylaw and associated education and Bylaw enforcement, where damage to dune or other geological systems and processes or harm to ecological systems or indigenous flora and fauna might occur.
10. Council notification of a plan change to provide practical planning provisions and restrictions to give effect to Policy 20 of the NZCPS and implement Policy RA 5 of the BOP Regional Coastal Environment Plan by identifying locations in which vehicle access will be restricted and/or prohibited, and to develop an integrated rule framework in consultation with the community.

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.

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 Outstanding Natural Landscape	Description	Values
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 Whitiakau Scenic	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. High Aesthetic Values with strong cohesive upland indigenous forest landscape

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Landscape	Description	Values
		<p>Reserve and Ruakumara Forest Park.</p> <p>An extensive area of upland forest of national significance with high ecological values and landscape integrity in relation to landscape structure and landscape function.</p> <p>Very high cultural values.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Highly Expressive of upland volcanic topography and weathered terrain and natural processes that form the landscape.</p> <p>High Transient values with varying weather conditions, forest flowering, seasonal change in river and valley systems through this landscape.</p>
2	Otamaroa Inland	<p>Steep upland range continuum from the Mangatoetoe Stream corridor to Whangaparaoa River corridor and the seaward slope of Tapuaeharuru-Tutaewhakaipiki <i>ridgeline</i> west to Otamaroa and State Highway 35. Majority of area outside of the regional boundary.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Landscape	Description	Values
			<p>scale of the landscape and extent of forested area.</p> <p>Highly Expressive of upland volcanic topography and weathered terrain and natural processes that form the landscape.</p> <p>High Transient values with varying weather conditions, forest flowering, seasonal change in this landscape</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 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.</p> <p>Moderate 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.</p> <p>Moderately to Highly Expressive of the natural processes that formed and continue to shape this landscape.</p> <p>Low Transient values identified for this landscape.</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 Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
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No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
4	Pataua Island	<p>A significant natural <i>habitat</i> 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 <i>Natural character</i> 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	Waiotahe 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 <i>natural character</i> 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</p>

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
			fauna and flora through seasonal change is moderate to high.
6	Pohutukawa tunnels over State Highway 2 at Waioatahe	A distinct and memorable feature and gateway to the Ōpōtiki township and Waioatahe 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	Moderate to High Natural science factors

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
		<p>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>	<p>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.</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	<p>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>	<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 11 12	Haumiaroa Point Whituare Bay Maraenui Escarpment (Whituare Bay)	<p>A collection of individually identified features as one larger feature, this coastline comprises the formation of a coastal escarpment and headlands that extend between Hawai and Haupoto. Comprising steep coastal escarpments clad with native bush cover the area is identified as having</p>	<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</p>

EARTHWORKS, LANDSCAPES, INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
		High Natural character at a Regional level.	<p>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>
13	Motu River Mouth	A highly distinctive large river mouth, the Motu River provides a 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.	<p>High Natural Science factors relate to its large scale river mouth and dynamic nature of the river which is subject to cumulative and dramatic change. The native bush cover extends to meet the broader native bush of the Raukūmara 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
14	Orangoihunui Point & Whitianga Bay, Whitianga Bay to Ohae	A large coastline dominated by a rocky shoreline and native vegetation cover.	Moderate to High Natural science factors this coastline provides a steep coastline

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
	Point	The area extends inland to encompass part of the vegetated coastal <i>ridgeline</i> between Waihapokopoko and Waioria Streams. Identified as having high <i>natural character</i> values at a regional scale.	with small plateau with intact indigenous vegetation cover existing across the entire coastline. 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. 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.
15	Motunui Island and Associated Reefs	A narrow rocky shoreline iconic of this coastal landscape, the Pohutukawa clad volcanic rocky shoreline is also identified as having High <i>Natural character</i> at a regional scale. The area excludes the settlement of Whanarua Bay and is aligned to the coastal edge.	Moderate to High Natural Science Factors attributed to the small rocky island and 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. High Aesthetic Values the rocky shoreline provides a sequence of headlands and embayments topped with a plateau of cultivated rural productive land use which further accentuates the dominant coastal vegetation. Moderately expressive with intact sequencing of coastal landscape features and transient values attributed to the coastal processes and seasonal flowering of Pohutukawa.
16	Whanarua Bay		
17	Raukokore River Mouth	A distinctive river mouth, lagoon and stoney shore the feature includes the native bush along the river margins	High Natural Science factors relate to its large scale river mouth and dynamic nature of the river which is subject to cumulative

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
		and the dune feature at the river mouth.	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. High Aesthetic Values 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. 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.
18	Oruaiti Beach, offshore rocks and Waikanapanapa cliffs	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.	Moderate to High Natural Science Factors 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. High Aesthetic Values the rocky shoreline provides a sequence of headlands and embayments atopped with a plateau of cultivated rural productive landuse which further accentuates the dominant coastal vegetation. Moderately expressive with intact sequencing of coastal landscape features and transient values attributed to the coastal processes and seasonal flowering of Pohutukawa.
19	Whangaparaoa dunefield, <i>wetland</i> and estuary	An extensive coastal duneland with intact cover of vegetation, <i>wetlands</i> and river system backing a long open beach.	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

No.	Name of Outstanding Natural Feature	Description	Values
			<p>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>
20 21	Kopongatahi Point Cape Runaway	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>High Natural Science Factors include the rocky shoreline and reefs, Otarawhata Island and the series of coastal headlands and bays including Papinga 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>

13.9.3 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SIGNIFICANT INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS OF INDIGENOUS FAUNA

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 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 District 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.

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 Bay of Plenty or New Zealand 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.