

NFL - NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

Introduction..... 3

Objectives..... 3

Policies 4

Rules..... 7

 Permitted Activities..... 7

 Restricted Discretionary Activities 9

 Discretionary Activities..... 10

 Non-Complying Activities 11

Page Intentionally Left Blank

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.
- 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.
- 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.

This chapter must also be read alongside Chapter 3A Network Utilities and Chapter 3D Earthworks. For activities involving Network Utilities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features the ~~more specific~~ 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.^{1 2 3 4}.

Objectives

NFL-O1

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features are identified within the Manawatū District^{5 6 7 8 9}.

¹ S10/17 and S10/18 (Powerco)

² S12/3 (Transpower)

³ Supported by S26/1 (KiwiRail)

⁴ Supported by S28/4 and S28/2 (Waka Kotahi NZTA)

⁵ Supported by S8/1 (Department of Conservation)

⁶ Supported by S12/4 (Transpower)

⁷ Supported by S13/2 (Horizons Regional Council)

⁸ Supported by S26/2 (KiwiRail)

⁹ Supported by S28/1 (Waka Kotahi NZTA)

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^{10 11 12 13}.

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

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^{14 15}.

Relevant policies 13, 14

NFL-O4

Enhance The characteristics and values of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, and maintain or enhance Significant Amenity Features ~~are maintained or enhanced~~.^{16 17 18 19}

Relevant policies 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Policies

NFL-P1

To identify the characteristics and values, and spatially define Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes consistent with the following criteria^{20 21}:

- 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^{22 23}.

¹⁰ Supported by S8/2 (Department of Conservation)

¹¹ Supported by S12/5 (Transpower)

¹² Supported by S13/3 (Horizons Regional Council)

¹³ Supported by 28/2 (Waka Kotahi NZTA)

¹⁴ Supported by S12/6 (Transpower)

¹⁵ Supported by S13/4 (Horizons Regional Council)

¹⁶ Supported by S8/3 and S8/4 (Department of Conservation)

¹⁷ Supported by S12/7 (Transpower)

¹⁸ Supported by S28/3 (Waka Kotahi NZTA)

¹⁹ S9/10 (Forest and Bird)

²⁰ Supported by S12/8 (Transpower)

²¹ Supported by S13/6 (Horizons Regional Council)

²² Supported by S8/6 (Department of Conservation)

²³ Supported by S12/9 (Transpower)

NFL-P3

To avoid inappropriate use and development within Outstanding Landscapes Features identified in NFL-APP1 which adversely affects the identified values and characteristics of the areas, including ^{24 25 26 27}:

- 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 maintained²⁸.

NFL-P5

To enable the continuation of existing farm grazing activities within Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features at the same scale and intensity occurring as at 7 February 2020 where the activity does not adversely affect the characteristics and values identified in NFL-APP1 and NFL-APP2. ~~To recognise the Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature includes existing farming activities and provide for the continuation of these existing activities where they do not adversely affect the characteristics and values identified in NFL-APP1.~~^{29 30}

NFL-P6

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^{31 32}.

NFL-P7

Except as required by NFL-P6, 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 Landscapes³³ identified in NFL-APP1^{34 35}.

NFL-P8

²⁴ S9/2 (Forest and Bird)

²⁵ S8/7 (Department of Conservation)

²⁶ S9/13 (Forest and Bird)

²⁷ Supported by S12/10 (Transpower)

²⁸ Supported by S12/11 (Transpower)

²⁹ Supported by S12/12 (Transpower)

³⁰ S9/15 (Forest and Bird), S27/3 (Federated Farmers), S9/28 (Forest and Bird), S1/1 (Worsfold), S30/1 (McKinnon), S29/1 and S29/2 (Black Fern Farms), S32/1 (Crutchley and Hillas), S25/1 (Holloway), S3/1 (Fallaver), S4/1 (Baker), S11/1 (Robb), and S19/1 (Williams)

³¹ Supported by S8/10 (Department of Conservation)

³² Supported by S12/13 (Transpower)

³³ S9/18 (Forest and Bird)

³⁴ Supported by S12/14 (Transpower)

³⁵ Supported by S13/8 (Horizons Regional Council)

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^{36 37 38}.

NFL-P9

To avoid the development of new buildings or structures within Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1^{39 40 41}.

NFL-P10

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~~ ~~has~~⁴² an adverse effect on characteristics and values of the feature identified in NFL-APP1^{43 44}.

NFL-P11

To restrict the removal of indigenous vegetation from Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes identified in NFL-APP1^{45 46}.

NFL-P12

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.^{47 48}

NFL-P13

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-APP1⁴⁹.

NFL-P14

To ~~manage~~ ~~restrict~~ subdivision within Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Amenity Features where the fragmentation of land would adversely affect ~~to ensure~~ the characteristics and values of the Feature identified in NFL-APP1 are not adversely affected by fragmentation of ownership arising from subdivision^{50 51}.

NFL-P15

³⁶ Supported by S8/12 (Department of Conservation)

³⁷ Supported by S9/19 (Forest and Bird)

³⁸ Supported by S12/15 (Transpower)

³⁹ Supported by S8/13 (Department of Conservation)

⁴⁰ Supported by S9/20 (Forest and Bird)

⁴¹ Supported by S12/16 (Transpower)

⁴² Minor change to correct tense

⁴³ Supported by S9/21 (Forest and Bird)

⁴⁴ Supported by S12/17 (Transpower)

⁴⁵ Supported by S9/22 (Forest and Bird)

⁴⁶ Supported by S12/18 (Transpower)

⁴⁷ S9/23 and S9/30 (Forest and Bird)

⁴⁸ Supported by S12/19 (Transpower)

⁴⁹ Supported by S12/20 (Transpower)

⁵⁰ S9/25 (Forest and Bird)

⁵¹ Supported by S12/21 (Transpower)

To protect existing indigenous vegetation^{52 53 54}.

NFL-P16

To encourage restoration and planting with locally sourced indigenous species appropriate to the ecological area within of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Significant Amenity Features^{55 56 57 58}.

NFL-P17

~~To enable the continuation of existing stock grazing within Significant Amenity Features where this does not compromise the characteristics and values identified in NFL APP2~~^{59 60 61}.

NFL-P18

To ~~control~~restrict use and development within Significant Amenity Features to those activities which do not adversely affect the characteristics and values identified in NFL-APP2.^{62 63 64}

NFL-P19

~~To restrict the introduction of exotic vegetation species, including forestry, within Significant Amenity Features identified in NFL APP2.~~⁶⁵

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.⁶⁶

Permitted Activities

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

⁵² Supported by S8/20 (Department of Conservation)

⁵³ Supported by S9/26 (Forest and Bird)

⁵⁴ Supported by S12/22 (Transpower)

⁵⁵ S13/12 (Horizons Regional Council)

⁵⁶ Supported by S8/21 (Department of Conservation)

⁵⁷ Supported by S9/27 (Forest and Bird)

⁵⁸ Supported by S12/23 (Transpower)

⁵⁹ Supported by S8/22 (Department of Conservation)

⁶⁰ Supported by S12/24 (Transpower)

⁶¹ S9/15 (Forest and Bird), S27/3 (Federated Farmers), S9/28 (Forest and Bird), S1/1 (Worsfold), S30/1 (McKinnon), S29/1 and S29/2 (Black Fern Farms), S32/1 (Crutchley and Hillas), S25/1 (Holloway), S3/1 (Fallaver), S4/1 (Baker), S11/1 (Robb), and S19/1 (Williams)

⁶² S9/29 (Forest and Bird)

⁶³ Supported by S8/23 (Department of Conservation)

⁶⁴ Supported by S12/25 (Transpower)

⁶⁵ S9/30 (Forest and Bird)

⁶⁶ S12/27 (Transpower)

NFL-R1 The use and maintenance of existing tracks and walkways for passive recreation, conservation, and customary activities within public areas^{67 68}.

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.^{69 70 71 72}

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^{73 74 75}.

NFL-R3 Removal and control of weeds and pests, including wildling pines^{76 77}.

NFL-R4 Fencing off of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes areas^{78 79}.

NFL-R5 Indigenous vegetation clearance only for the purpose of^{80 81 82}:

- 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^{83 84}.

NFL-R7 Construction and use of buildings and structures within the Totara Reserve Regional Park no greater than 50m² in area⁸⁵.

NFL-R8 Continuation of stock grazing of pasture within Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features and Significant Amenity Features at the same scale and intensity as occurring

⁶⁷ Supported by S8/25 (Department of Conservation)

⁶⁸ Supported by S9/31 (Forest and Bird)

⁶⁹ S16/15, S16/22 and S16/35 (McIntyre)

⁷⁰ S20/2 (Berry)

⁷¹ S23/2 (Clements)

⁷² S24/1 (O'Reilly)

⁷³ S13/13 (Horizons Regional Council)

⁷⁴ Supported by S8/26 (Department of Conservation)

⁷⁵ Supported by S9/32 (Forest and Bird)

⁷⁶ Supported by S8/27 (Department of Conservation)

⁷⁷ Supported by S9/33 (Forest and Bird)

⁷⁸ S9/34 (Forest and Bird)

⁷⁹ Supported by S8/28 (Department of Conservation)

⁸⁰ Supported by S8/29 (Department of Conservation)

⁸¹ Supported by S9/35 (Forest and Bird)

⁸² Supported by S26/5 (KiwiRail)

⁸³ Supported by S8/30 (Department of Conservation)

⁸⁴ Supported by S26/6 (KiwiRail)

⁸⁵ Supported by S8/31 (Department of Conservation)

~~at 7 February 2020 and where no vegetation clearance is required. Continuation of existing stock grazing within the Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature and within Significant Amenity Features as at 7 February 2020.~~^{86 87}

NFL-R9 Continuation of horticulture and cropping on the lower terraces of the Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature and within Significant Amenity Features where no vegetation clearance is required.^{88 89}

NFL-R10 Construction and use of new farm buildings and structures within the Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature that are no higher than 4m, no greater than 60m², and setback from any property boundary by 1.5m.^{90 91 92 93 94 95}

NFL-R11 Construction, use and maintenance of tracks up to 1.5m wide within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape or a Significant Amenity Feature.^{96 97}

NFL-R9 **NFL-R12** Earthworks associated with a permitted activity listed above and consistent with Rule 3D.4.2.

Guidance Notes:

1. Except as provided for in NFL-R9, 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.⁹⁸

Restricted Discretionary Activities

The following activities are Restricted Discretionary Activities:

NFL-R10 **NFL-R13** Development 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 matters⁹⁹:

⁸⁶ Supported by S8/32 (Department of Conservation)

⁸⁷ S9/15 and S9/28 (Forest and Bird), S1/1 (Worsfold), S30/1 (McKinnon), S29/1 and S29/2 (Black Fern Farms), S32/1 (Crutchley and Hillas), S25/1 (Holloway), S3/1 (Fallaver), S4/1 (Baker), S11/1 (Robb), and S19/1 (Williams)

⁸⁸ S18/1 (Rendle)

⁸⁹ S30/1 (McKinnon)

⁹⁰ S1/1 (Worsfold)

⁹¹ S27/12 (Federated Farmers)

⁹² S3/1 (Fallauer)

⁹³ S4/1 (Baker)

⁹⁴ S11/1 (Robb)

⁹⁵ S19/1 (Williams)

⁹⁶ S13/16 and S13/17 (Horizons Regional Council)

⁹⁷ S27/12 (Federated Farmers)

⁹⁸ S13/15 (Horizons Regional Council)

⁹⁹ Supported by S8/34 (Department of Conservation)

- 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-R14 The extraction of gravel from within the Rangitikei River and river beaches 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. ^{100 101}

NFL-R15 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. ^{102 103 104}

Discretionary Activities

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

NFL-R11 **NFL-R16** Subdivision within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Significant Amenity Feature as identified in NFL-APP1 or NFL-APP2¹⁰⁵.

NFL-R12 **NFL-R17** Construction, alteration or addition of buildings, or new passive recreation tracks greater than 1.5m wide^{106 107} within an Outstanding Natural Feature and Significant Amenity Feature as identified in NFL-APP1 or NFL-APP2^{108 109}.

¹⁰⁰ S7/1 and S7/2 (Byfords Construction 2014 Ltd.)

¹⁰¹ S21/3 and S21/1 (Aggregate and Quarry Association)

¹⁰² S16/13 and S16/42 (McIntyre)

¹⁰³ S6/1 (Hainsworth)

¹⁰⁴ S19/1 (Williams)

¹⁰⁵ Supported by S8/35 (Department of Conservation)

¹⁰⁶ S13/16 and S13/17 (Horizons Regional Council)

¹⁰⁷ S27/12 (Federated Farmers)

¹⁰⁸ Supported by S8/36 (Department of Conservation)

¹⁰⁹ Supported by S9/42 (Forest and Bird)

NFL-R13 **NFL-R18** Stock grazing, horticulture and cropping in Outstanding Natural Features and Significant Amenity Features, except as provided for by NFL-R8. ~~for the existing stock grazing within the Rangitikei River Outstanding Natural Feature and Significant Amenity Features~~^{110 111}

Non-Complying Activities

The following activities are Non-Complying Activities:

NFL-R14 **NFL-R19** Construction, alteration or addition of buildings within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1^{112 113}.

NFL-R15 **NFL-R20** Subdivision within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1^{114 115}.

NFL-R16 **NFL-R21** Stock grazing, horticulture and cropping within an Outstanding Natural Landscape as identified in NFL-APP1, except as provided for by NFL-R8.^{116 117 118}

NFL-R17 **NFL-R22** New Plantation Forestry within an Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape and Significant Amenity Feature^{119 120}.

NFL-R18 **NFL-R23** Any activity not otherwise provided for as a Permitted, Restricted Discretionary or Discretionary Activity^{121 122}.

Guidance Note¹²³

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.

¹¹⁰ Supported by S8/37 (Department of Conservation)

¹¹¹ S9/15 (Forest and Bird), S9/28 (Forest and Bird), S1/1 (Worsfold), S30/1 (McKinnon), S29/1 and S29/2 (Black Fern Farms), S32/1 (Crutchley and Hillas), S25/1 (Holloway), S3/1 (Fallaver), S4/1 (Baker), S11/1 (Robb), and S19/1 (Williams)

¹¹² Supported by S8/38 (Department of Conservation)

¹¹³ Supported by S9/44 (Forest and Bird)

¹¹⁴ Supported by S8/39 (Department of Conservation)

¹¹⁵ Supported by S9/45 (Forest and Bird)

¹¹⁶ Supported by S8/40 (Department of Conservation)

¹¹⁷ Supported by S9/46 (Forest and Bird)

¹¹⁸ S9/15 (Forest and Bird), S9/28 (Forest and Bird), S1/1 (Worsfold), S30/1 (McKinnon), S29/1 and S29/2 (Black Fern Farms), S32/1 (Crutchley and Hillas), S25/1 (Holloway), S3/1 (Fallaver), S4/1 (Baker), S11/1 (Robb), and S19/1 (Williams)

¹¹⁹ Supported by S8/41 (Department of Conservation)

¹²⁰ Supported by S9/47 (Forest and Bird)

¹²¹ Supported by S8/42 (Department of Conservation)

¹²² Supported by S9/48 (Forest and Bird)

¹²³ Supported by S9/49 (Forest and Bird)