

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL RATES REMISSIONS

GREEN NETWORK RATES RELIEF

The Waitakere City Council has adopted a rates relief policy to promote the protection and enhancement of natural heritage features within the City – the Green Network. The policy provides for rates relief on properties which contain important natural heritage and landscape features (as identified in the Council's District Plan Maps Section as part of the Green Network), and where the landowner is willing to manage their land so as to protect and enhance the Green Network.

In addition, the policy provides for rates relief where landowners provide for public access (in appropriate circumstances), and where landowners have exhibited an exceptional degree of public good by some measure to protect and enhance the Green Network beyond what is provided for in this policy.

To be eligible to receive rates relief, landowners must be willing to attach a legal encumbrance to their property titles (for example a conservation covenant), outlining the agreed management strategy for the land, and forgoing any future subdivision of the property, (or that part of the property for which the rates relief is granted).

Eligibility for Participation

Properties with the following Green Network elements (as identified in the District Plan maps section) are eligible to participate:

- Significant or outstanding native vegetation and fauna habitat (i.e. included in the Managed Natural Area, Protected Natural Area or Coastal Natural Area)
- Riparian Margin/Coastal Edge – being the area alongside streams, wetlands and the coast
- Ecological Linkage or Restoration Areas

In addition, extra rates relief can be awarded if the landowner:

- has a property with high landscape values or which is highly visible
- is willing to provide public access to their property, and this is desirable and appropriate
- has exhibited an exceptional degree of public good by some measure to protect and enhance the Green Network beyond what is provided for in this policy.

To receive the rates relief, the landowner must be willing to:

- commit to a management programme that will protect and enhance the Green Network, and to have this management plan attached to their Certificate of Title as a legal encumbrance of some sort (see below for more discussion of this aspect).
- forgo any future subdivision of the property, or that part of the property to which the rate relief is proposed to apply through legal encumbrance on the Certificate of Title
- in situations where only part of a property is protected, ensure that no activities on the remainder of the property create adverse effects in the protected area.

For more information on rates relief contact Waitakere City Council on (09) 839 0400