

INTRODUCTION TO THE RULES continued

Natural Areas Rules

There are a number of “Natural Areas” identified in the *Plan*. Every part of Waitakere City is within one or other of the *Natural Areas*. These *Natural Areas* are the basis for rules which appear in the *Natural Areas Rules*. The *Natural Areas* are:

General Natural Area

covering developed parts of the City, generally with low or little *native vegetation* cover. Important natural resources include trees, water systems, landforms and *Ecological Linkage Opportunities*.

Restoration Natural Area

covering areas in the City which have been identified as having significant *native vegetation*, but of a lower quality than that identified as *Managed Natural Area*.

Managed Natural Area

covering areas which are characterised by significant *native vegetation*, wildlife habitats and water systems. The area is also an important landscape feature. This *Natural Area* is primarily located in the Waitakere Ranges, although there are sizeable portions in the rural areas and eastern lowlands.

Coastal Natural Area

covering an area extending along the West Coast, around the Manukau Harbour and alongside parts of the Waitemata Harbour. It is an area of outstanding coastal landscape quality, and it also includes important areas of *native vegetation*, wildlife habitat and streams and lakes with high water quality and aesthetic values.

Protected Natural Area

covering areas close to the coast which have outstanding landscape quality and all other areas in the City (all being in the Waitakere Ranges) which have been classified as having outstanding *native vegetation*. Outstanding *native vegetation* is *vegetation* of the highest value and importance in the City. This area also includes all of those parts of the City which have been classified as Outstanding Natural Features and the whole *Natural Area* includes important wildlife habitats and sensitive water systems.

Riparian Margins/Coastal Edge Natural Area

covering an area extending around coastlines and adjoining important streams, rivers, wetlands and lakes. This *Natural Area* forms an ecological buffer beside natural water systems and does not provide for public access to private land.

Sensitive Ridgelines

Sensitive ridgelines, headlands, cliffs and scarps cover areas of ridgelines, headlands, cliffs and scarps that are sensitive to inappropriate *subdivision*, use and *development*. The rules managing *buildings* on ridgelines, headlands, cliffs and scarps are contained in the *Human Environment Rules*. Otherwise refer to the relevant *Natural Areas* that underlies the *sensitive ridgeline*, headland, cliff or scarp.

All of the above *Natural Areas* are shown on the *Natural Areas Maps*. The *Natural Areas Maps* also indicate *natural landscape elements*, which are the subject of separate rules within the *Human Environment Rules*.

The Policy Section of the *Plan* provides further explanation of these *Natural Areas* and the natural resources that these areas have.

Human Environments Rules

The *Human Environments* reflect areas within the City which have noticeably different characteristics, and possible *effects* on the *environment*, due to their past, present and possible future *development*. The *Human Environments*, which are shown on the *Human Environments Maps* and covered by rules in the *Human Environments Rules* are:

Living Environment

covering urban and suburban residential areas of the City;

Community Environment

covering the town centres, suburban shopping centres and blocks of shops;

Open Space Environment

covering land owned or managed by the Council, the Auckland Regional Council or other public agencies;

Working Environment

covering the industrial/employment areas of the City;



Waitakere Ranges Environment

covering areas within the Waitakere Ranges in private ownership and generally bush-covered large *sites*;

Bush Living Environment

covering areas within the Waitakere Ranges in private ownership, generally bush-covered and smaller *sites*;

Countryside Environment

covering the rural area to the north of the City's developed urban area;

Foothills Environment

covering that area between the developed urban area westwards to the bush covered parts of the Waitakere Ranges;

Rural Villages Environment

covering the villages located in rural parts of the City - Herald Island, Whenuapai and Waitakere;

Coastal Villages Environment

covering the settlements along the Tasman Sea and Manukau Harbour Coast - Te Henga, Piha, Karekare, Huia, Cornwallis and Parau;

Transport Environment

covering all of the *roads* in the City which are owned by the Council or Transit NZ, and the railway corridor;

Special Areas

Locations within the City that have special characteristics which separate them out from the above *Human Environments* - Monterey Park (for Visitors), Westpark Marina, Corbans Estate, (Bible) College, Quarry, Balefill, Harbourview, (Waitakere) Hospital, (Te Atatu) Boat Club, Peripheral Growth Area, Lincoln Centre and Lincoln Park.

There is also a part of the *Human Environments* Rules covering "*Scheduled Sites*". These are *sites* containing activities such as *service stations* and *shops* which are within a *Human Environment* generally not catering for that type of activity, but where the *Plan* gives the activity special recognition and protection.

Subdivision

The *Subdivision* Rules apply to all proposals for *subdivision* in the City. There is a general rules section with specific rules relating to each of the *Human Environments*. Rules cover *design* (*lot size*, etc.) and engineering (*service provision* etc.) matters.