

## **Landscape Heritage Features Map – Description of Features**

### **Outstanding Landscapes**

These are landforms such as ridge/valley systems, bluffs, dune systems, or rock outcrops that are the best representative examples of that particular landform in the ecological district. The landscapes have been identified using a combination of techniques including assessing topographical maps, aerial photos and field surveys.

For information on permitted activities in these areas refer to the District Plan – Rules and Appendix D: Methodology.

### **Sensitive Ridges**

These are areas that have been identified as being at particular risk of losing their natural landscape value through inappropriate development. Ridges, headlands and cliff/scarps were mapped using aerial photos and a set of criteria were used to determine the sensitivity of the areas to development.

The District Plan rules relating to development on sensitive ridges use a two-tier system of protection making a distinction between ridgelines that have been modified by development and where restrictions on development are relaxed and sensitive ridgelines that are still predominantly natural and where future development could have greater impact on amenity and landscape values. The ridgelines have different buffer widths (25m, 65m and 100m either side of the centreline of the ridge) which take account of the differences in steepness found on the sensitive ridgelines, with broad ridges requiring a wider buffer and narrow, steep ridges a narrower buffer. The rules relating to development in these areas are structured to ensure development in these areas is subject to a more detailed examination than areas where development would not intrude on the sea or skyline views.

For information on permitted activities in these areas refer to the District Plan – Rules and Appendix D: Methodology.

### **Landscape Units**

As part of a wider study of the landscape features of the Waitakere Ranges, Melean Absolum Ltd examined the character of the landscapes of the eastern edge of the Waitakere Ranges and the foothills landscape (Waitakere Ranges Landscape Study Stage 1, Melean Absolum Ltd, August 2004). Looking at the landforms of the Ranges, the landscape was divided into four broad bands progressing from Scenic Drive ridge at the top, to the valley floor at the bottom of the foothills. The bands are:

1. The core Ranges area
2. Upper foothills
3. Lower foothills
4. Land beyond the Foothills

The Upper and Lower foothills bands were then divided into nineteen landscape units, based on homogeneity of appearance and character. The landscape elements, landscape character, landscape sensitivity and management issues for each landscape unit are discussed in further detail in the report "Waitakere Ranges Landscape Study Stage 1" by Melean Absolum Ltd.