

## **2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **ISSUE 1**

The adverse effects of land use activities on:

- areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna;
- natural features and landscapes;
- natural character and functioning of river, wetlands and coastal systems;
- heritage and cultural values;

and the lack of protection of those areas which contain values of importance at a local, regional or national level.

#### *Explanation*

*The District has within it a number of outstanding natural features and landscapes, areas of significant amenity landscapes, areas of significant indigenous vegetation, and some significant habitats of significant indigenous fauna. It also has a number of important heritage sites, buildings, places and areas. In the past activities have degraded or destroyed some of these areas. In some areas the quality of water and aquatic systems have been affected by land use activities. An issue arises out of the potential of activities involving the utilisation of natural and physical resources which continue to have these unwanted impacts.*

*It is a statutory requirement of Part II of the Resource Management Act to recognise and provide for those features of the natural environment referred to as "Matters of national importance" and "Other matters" in sections 6 and 7 (see Appendix 1 of this Plan) in achieving the purpose of sustainable management.*

*Remaining natural areas in the District form an important part of our national heritage. Most of these areas have been highly modified so that only remnant habitats remain.*

*Vegetation clearance including burning and overgrazing of tussock grasslands and shrublands, browsing and grazing of forest remnants, drainage and reclamation of wetlands, and stock entry to these areas and water bodies and water course modification have had a major impact on natural areas, landscape values and the natural functioning of rivers and coastal ecosystems. The impact of pest species is also a concern.*

*A significant proportion of all public comments received in preparing this Plan expressed a concern for the well being of the environment. The Takata Whenua also share many of the concerns expressed by the wider community for improved public access and the protection of freshwater and coastal ecosystems, indigenous plant and animal communities and their habitats, and landscape values.*

*Much of the remnant indigenous vegetation and habitat within the District is on private land. Protection of such areas may involve costs on the landowner which could be shared by the community.*

(See also the provisions for Natural Areas and Scenic and Landscape Values within the Rural Zones, controls for protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats, and riparian areas and wetlands in all Rural Zones; controls on the introduction of exotic fauna in the Rural 5 Zone; visual and amenity controls in the Rural 3, 4 and 5 Zones; and provisions for Heritage Values and the General Rules).

### **OBJECTIVES**

- (1) Safeguard the indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem functioning of the District through the protection and restoration of significant indigenous flora and fauna habitat; the maintenance and enhancement of natural biological and physical processes; and retention (as far as possible) of the remaining indigenous vegetation and habitat generally.

#### *Principal Reason*

*This objective recognises the need to promote a range of ecological principles such as the need to preserve and enhance biological diversity. This ensures that a range of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna are represented across the District and that linkage between fragmented areas is planned for wherever possible*

- (2) Protect and enhance the natural character and functioning and habitat values of the coastal environment and wetlands, streams, rivers and their margins.

#### *Principal Reason*

*To address issues relating to water quality and other related landscape and ecosystem values in riparian and coastal margins. Council has responsibility for land use in these areas where this use has the potential to affect aquatic values. In taking account of land use issues and formulating this objective, the Council must ensure that this Plan is not inconsistent with any provisions included in the Regional Policy Statement, the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and the Opihi Regional Plan.*

- (3) Identify, protect and enhance outstanding landscape values of the District, and those natural processes, features and areas of significant natural value which contribute to its overall character and amenity.

### *Principal Reason*

*Acknowledges the need to identify landscapes and natural processes in order to protect these areas from activities that may adversely affect their visual character and functioning.*

## **POLICIES**

### **Natural Values**

- (1) To protect and enhance the natural character of the landscape and those areas and features most highly valued in the District, including those identified as being of regional and national importance, from inappropriate subdivision and the adverse effects of any use or development of land.

### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*All remaining areas of indigenous vegetation, such as forest remnants on the downlands, and habitats of indigenous fauna in the Timaru District have been modified. Many of these remaining areas have ecological, cultural, historical, and scientific values worthy of protection. Outstanding natural features and landscapes, and areas having significant amenity values within the District are also worthy of protection.*

- (2) To protect the heritage, cultural and traditional values associated with natural areas identified by the Council.

When implementing this policy Council shall have regard to the following adverse environmental effects:

- clearance of indigenous vegetation by any means, including burning;
- soil cover;
- over planting with exotic species;
- landscape and visual effects;
- habitat values.

### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Protection will be offered by the Council to those natural areas it identifies as most significant, to ensure the values they contain are safeguarded from development that may compromise their integrity.*

- (3) To promote the enhancement of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna.

Where areas with important ecological values exist in a degraded state, enhancement should be promoted particularly where it will achieve long term improvement and:

- i) Contribute to the indigenous biodiversity of the area, particularly for ecosystem types that are threatened or under-represented in protected areas; or
- ii) Improve the life supporting capacity of the indigenous ecosystems; or
- iii) Improve or establish connections between habitats and create corridors for wildlife dispersal.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*In promoting the protection and enhancement of natural areas, priority will be given to indigenous plants and animals over other types because indigenous plants and animals are so reduced in numbers.*

- (4) To protect as far as possible the full range of biological and physical diversity that is or was typical of, or unique to the Timaru District.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*This policy recognises the need to protect and enhance a diverse range of indigenous plant and animal species to ensure those surviving indigenous species are protected.*

- (5) To avoid the loss or significant reduction in the ecological integrity and functioning, habitat values, natural character or amenity values of any significant natural area.

When implementing this policy Council shall have regard to adverse environmental effects on the natural character and indigenous land and water ecosystem functions of the District, including:

- land form, physical processes and hydrology;
- remaining areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat, and linkages and ecotones between these areas;
- aquatic habitat and water quality and quantity.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*As areas or sites of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna are given special recognition in the Plan, it is important that any proposals which have the potential to adversely impact on such areas are carefully considered in terms of their environmental effects.*

- (6) Subdivision, use, or development which has the potential to modify, mask or detract from areas with a high degree of naturalness, visibility, aesthetic values or expressiveness, including important landscapes, landforms and other natural features should be avoided or its effects mitigated or remedied.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Provides guidance to Council when considering proposals which have the potential to adversely affect the landscape resource, natural features, and amenity values associated with natural areas.*

- (7) To maintain the boldness and clarity of the hill and high country landscape; avoid increasing the apparent level of modification; and promote visual harmony and coherence.

The upper slopes of the Four Peaks Range and Ben Hope, and the high country areas from Peel Forest and Little Mt Peel/Huatekerekere northwest to Mesopotamia including to the west and north-west of the Sinclair Range on the south side of the Rangitata River, including the Rangitata Gorge, are recognised as being outstanding landscapes within the District.

The east and north facing Front Range Hills from Waitohi Hill north, including Te Moana, Four Peaks, Ben Hope, Orari Gorge and Scotsburn are recognised as being significant amenity landscapes within the District.

*Explanation*

*In accordance with sections 6 and 7 of the Resource Management Act 1991 this policy gives special recognition to the hill and high country landscape of the District and provides guidance to Council when considering proposals which have the potential to adversely affect these areas.*

*The Front Range Hills are distinctive features of the Timaru District. These are the highly visible mountains viewed from the plains and Fairlie Basin. Their rugged peaks provide an impressive backdrop and give Timaru District a recognisable character and identity. The upper slopes of the Four Peaks Range and Ben Hope (generally above 750m altitude) are considered to be an outstanding landscape area.*

*Other Outstanding Landscapes of the Timaru District are its most conspicuous and prominent high country areas. The Mount Peel/Coal Hill vista is prominent in views from the eastern plains forming (with the nearby Four Peaks) an impressive backdrop to the eastern portion of the District. The lower hill slopes and river*

*terraces, and the Rangitata Gorge contribute to the outstanding values of this area, from river to mountain crest. The Upper Rangitata Basin is characterised by its broad scale, its distinctive landforms and its sense of wildness and space. These areas are part of a wider expanse of outstanding landscape extending north of the Rangitata River (and also recognised in the Ashburton District Plan). Landscape change in the form of inappropriate subdivision, land use and development has the potential to degrade the character and values of these outstanding landscapes. The valley flats, terraces and downlands are acknowledged as being less sensitive to change.*

*The east and north facing foothills are an integral part of this characteristic South Canterbury vista and are considered to be an Amenity Landscape Area. Extensive remnants of indigenous vegetation and the natural character of river gorges and stream margins within these eastern foothills contribute to the significant amenity values of these areas. These foothills are also recognised as being “working landscapes” subject to changes in productive land use from pastoral farming to forestry. The principal threats to landscape values would be inappropriate built development and activities that conflict with the natural amenities within these areas.*

*The remaining high country areas of the District, being parts of the Hewson River catchment are typical of the eastern high country. While not considered to be outstanding or amenity landscapes, these areas do retain high degrees of naturalness, wildness and amenity value.*

- (8) To ensure the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna within the District that is:
- defined in **Table B2** or
  - identified using the assessment criteria under Method (7).

#### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*This policy seeks to identify and safeguard the remaining remnant indigenous vegetation and habitats that are of significance within the District. The assessment process is set out in Method (7).*

- (9) To encourage landowners to protect and enhance significant natural areas, and support them in a co-operative manner by considering a range of options and protection mechanisms. Where the community will benefit from protection or enhancement of areas on private land, landowners costs should be recognised and shared by the wider community.

### *Explanation and Principle Reason*

*As much of the District's remaining natural areas are on private land, a co-operative approach with landowners is vital to achieving effective sustainable protection and goodwill. Protection and enhancement can incur unreasonable costs on landowners which should be shared by the community.*

- (10) To encourage protection of indigenous vegetation which is not covered by the definitions in **Table B2**, particularly any naturally occurring native trees or plant communities on the plains within the District.

### *Explanation and Principle Reason*

*Individual native trees are important remnants of indigenous vegetation in some parts of the District. They are important as habitat, as a seed source, and contribute to the natural biodiversity within the District. Their protection will be encouraged, rather than being subject to controls in the District Plan although individual trees can be added to the Schedules of Significant Trees accompanying the Planning Maps.*

### **River and Coastal Margins**

- (11) To recognise and protect and preserve the natural character of the coastal environment of the District.

### *Explanation and Principle Reason*

*The topography of the coastline in the District comprises two distinct areas: the generally flat and low lying southern sweep of the Canterbury Bight between the Rangitata River mouth and Timaru City, and an area of higher cliffs and headlands from Timaru City south to the Pareora River. The coastal environment extends about 200m inland from the mean high water line and further inland in some places where coastal lagoons are present or where low lying land is subject to inundation.*

- (12) (a) To advocate and promote the maintenance and enhancement of the natural functioning of coastal waters, lagoons, rivers and wetlands.
- (b) In considering whether to provide for the protection of water quality, priority shall be given to those sites which adjoin or are situated within one kilometre upstream of intake points for reticulated water supplies intended for domestic use.

### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*There are threats to the natural functioning of river and coastal systems which have a number of implications, e.g. the quality of water in rivers used for reticulated supplies. This policy proposes to increase public awareness of this issue and to use the esplanade provisions of the Resource Management Act to protect areas of land adjoining intake points.*

- (13) To consider varying the size or width of an esplanade reserve or esplanade strip or to consider waiving the requirement to provide an esplanade reserve or esplanade strip in special circumstances.

When considering whether to vary or waive the requirement to provide esplanade protection, the following matters shall be considered:

- (a) Where coastal or river margins are highly unstable due to erosion and changes in the location of the waterway or the coastline, the use of esplanade strips will be preferred to esplanade reserves;
- (b) In some cases esplanade strips will not give sufficient control over land to protect the values identified as being of importance. In those cases esplanade reserves will be used;
- (c) The conservation values of the area which contribute to the natural functioning of the river or coastal area;
- (d) The extent to which the natural character and visual qualities of the riparian or coastal margin will be affected;
- (e) The presence of other conservation values and habitats such as indigenous flora and fauna, trout and salmon;
- (f) Maori cultural values;
- (g) Public health and safety;
- (h) Security of people or property;
- (i) Presence of existing structures;
- (j) Public access and recreation values;



### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*There is a lack of awareness of benefits gained from protecting or enhancing conservation, recreation, and access values in riparian and coastal margins. The Council has obligations under the Resource Management Act, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, and the Regional Policy Statement to consider these values.*

*The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement requires District Plans to recognise the national importance of enhancing public access to and along the coast by identifying: the location and extent of places to which the public have the right of access; those places where public access should be enhanced, including for people with disabilities.*

*Notwithstanding these concerns, it is necessary to have some flexibility built into the esplanade provisions of the District Plan to ensure that in situations where it is impractical to require esplanade protection, the applicant has the opportunity to offer an alternative approach to the Council for consideration.*

- (14) To control tree planting, vegetation clearance, structures and earthworks within or adjacent to significant wetlands, rivers and the coast where these activities have the potential to adversely affect natural character and functioning, habitat values, amenity or cultural values.

### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Special recognition is given to areas and sites of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in the District. Land use with the potential to adversely affect these areas may need to be controlled in order to avoid, mitigate or remedy adverse environmental effects.*

## **METHODS**

- (1) Advocate increased protection of natural features including indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous animals and seek the co-operation of landowners, the Canterbury Regional Council, Department of Conservation and other agencies and interested groups to ensure the greatest range possible of the original biodiversity of the District is protected through reserves, covenants or other management agreements.

### *Principal Reason*

*In achieving the purpose of the Act, the Council has chosen to advocate public concern for greater protection of remaining significant natural areas in the District. Some costs may be reduced where baseline research is undertaken by Canterbury Regional Council and Department of Conservation although the Council may share in ongoing public information costs.*

- (2) Assisting landowners to protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna where sharing of costs by the community is appropriate, by the Council providing funding through a Natural Heritage Fund which can be used to support worthwhile projects.

### *Principal Reason*

*Provision of funding incentives is a positive way of sharing the costs of protecting and enhancing natural areas between landowners and the community.*

- (3) Improving the integrity of remaining indigenous vegetation through the use of locally genetically sourced plants in re-vegetation programmes implemented by the Council.

### *Principal Reason*

*The use of locally sourced plants for vegetation and enhancement programmes will protect the integrity of the remaining areas of indigenous vegetation, and will give greater assurance that the local unique biodiversity of the District will be protected in the long term.*

- (4) Supplying information to land owners and the general public to improve their awareness of significant natural areas and of those activities contributing to the degradation of river or coastal margins, the quality of water resources, and aquatic habitats in rivers, wetlands and coastal areas.

### *Principal Reason*

*A considerable amount of the District is farmland. While it is not proposed to use land-use controls to prevent the continuation of existing activities, it is believed that increased public awareness of the natural areas present may encourage a more sensitive approach to any development proposals in or adjacent to these areas.*

- (5) (a) Establishing rules on activities which control or avoid the adverse effects of development on or in areas adjacent to the coastal environment, outstanding landscapes, significant

amenity landscapes, significant indigenous vegetation and habitats, wetlands and riparian areas adjoining water bodies (see rules for Rural Zones).

- (b) Establishing rules to control vegetation clearance, earthworks, tree planting, cultivation, grazing and other land uses that can adversely affect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, significant natural features, sites and areas; wetlands; and riparian areas adjacent to water bodies (see rules for Rural Zones).

*Principal Reason*

*The Council needs to establish limits regarding the level of effects on natural areas and provide a measure of certainty for prospective developers.*

*Protects remnant areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitat; significant natural features, sites and areas; wetlands; and riparian areas adjacent to water bodies, from land use activities which degrade those areas.*

*Restricting stock access to waterways and riparian margins is often the key issue in achieving sustainable riparian management, particularly where intensive grazing practices are used. Heavy stock and deer mobs can cause the most impacts, and should be excluded from waterways. Stock access to waterways is not so much an issue on lightly stocked country.*

- (6) Ensuring the management of natural areas, significant landscapes, and heritage places already under Council jurisdiction is consistent with the policies contained in this section.

*Principal Reason*

*To provide continuity of management for all natural areas managed by Council.*

- (7) To provide interim Definitions of Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Significant Habitats of Indigenous Fauna (refer **Table B2**), and will endeavour to carry out property assessments within five years of this Plan becoming operative in consultation with landowners to determine significant areas using the following procedure and criteria:

### **ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE - AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT NATIVE VEGETATION AND SIGNIFICANT HABITATS OF NATIVE FAUNA**

In determining whether an area is significant in terms of section 6(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Council will use the following criteria:

#### **Primary Criteria**

##### **A The ecological values of the area - the values of the place itself**

- (i) Representativeness - Whether the area contains one of the best examples of an indigenous vegetation type, habitat or ecological process which is typical of its ecological district.
- (ii) Rarity - Whether the area supports or is important for the recovery of, an indigenous species, habitat or community of species which is rare or threatened within the ecological district or is threatened nationally.
- (iii) Diversity and Pattern - The degree of diversity exhibited by the area in:
  - vegetation
  - habitat types
  - ecotones
  - species
  - ecological processes
- (iv) Distinctiveness/Special Ecological Character - The type and range of unusual features of the area itself and the role of the area in relationship to other areas locally, regionally and nationally, including:
  - presence of indigenous species at their distribution limit
  - levels of endemism (e.g. the presence of endemic species)
  - supporting protected indigenous fauna for some part of their life cycle (e.g. breeding, feeding, moulting, roosting), whether on a regular or infrequent basis
  - playing a role in the life cycle of migratory indigenous fauna
  - containing one of the best examples of an intact sequence, or substantial part of an intact sequence of ecological features or gradients
  - supporting predominantly intact habitats with evidence of healthy natural ecosystem functioning

### **Other Criteria**

#### **B The ecological context of the area including its relationship with its surroundings**

- (v) Size and Shape - The degree to which the size and shape of an existing area is conducive to it being, or becoming ecologically self-sustaining.
- (vi) Connectivity - The extent to which the area has ecological value due to its location and functioning in relation to its surroundings. An area may be ecologically significant because of its connections to a neighbouring area, or as part of a network of areas of fauna habitat. For example an area may act as a corridor or stepping stone for movement/migration of species between or to areas of important habitat.

#### **C The future ecological value of the area**

- (vii) Long Term Sustainability - The degree to which an area is likely to maintain itself, taking into consideration:
  - extent to which criteria in paragraphs A and B above are met
  - degree of historic modification to the area and its surroundings which affects its future
  - degree of resilience of species and habitats present
  - the effects of current management on identified ecological values
  - the extent to which the area has achievable potential, with management input, for restoration of ecological values which are significant in the ecological district

**Note:** The application of some ecological criteria such as representativeness, rarity and connectivity may not be able to be confirmed until an extensive number of properties have been surveyed in a particular locality and the overall pattern of remnant indigenous vegetation and habitats can be assessed.

### **Final Consideration**

- D** Before deciding whether or not any identified area should be confirmed as being significant, Council will have regard to the following matters:
  - (a) existing land use and the degree of modification associated with the site;
  - (b) economic effects on the landowner (e.g. management costs, lost development potential);

- (c) other options for ensuring the identified values and their needs are recognised and protected;
- (d) presence and level of animal pests and weeds;
- (e) resources required to implement effective protection;
- (f) whether or not identified values are under threat;
- (g) the extent to which values are or are not protected elsewhere;
- (h) any other relevant factor.

### **Glossary of Terms**

**Endemic:** Refers to species of plants and animals, which are unique to an area, or animals, which may migrate but only to breed in the area.

**Ecological District:** One of the major levels used for the ecological classification of land. New Zealand has been divided up into 85 ecological regions and 269 ecological districts according to geological, topographical, climatic and biological features and processes. This reflects the small-scale variability of New Zealand's ecological patterns. An ecological district is a land where topographical, climatic, soils and biological features and broad cultural patterns produce a characteristic landscape of biological communities. An ecological region comprises adjacent ecological districts with closely related characteristics, or may only include one ecological district with very distinct features.

**Habitat:** The environment in which a particular species or group of species live. It includes the physical and biotic characteristics that are relevant to the species concerned. For example, the habitat of who/blue duck consists of swift water with an abundance of freshwater insects.

**Ecotone:** A transitional zone between two habitats, which has distinct species or ecological characteristics of its own.

**Resilience:** The ability of a community or species to recover quickly (return to its original state) from perturbation, disturbance or displacement.

**Community:** The species that occur together in the same place at the same time.

**Population:** A group of individuals of one species in an area.

**Ecosystem:** A biological system comprising a community of living organisms and its associated non-living environment (such as sunlight, air, water, minerals and nutrients), interacting as an ecological unit.

**Rare:** Species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but are at risk of extinction. The species are usually localised within restricted geographical areas or habitats, or thinly scattered over a more extensive range.

**Endangered:** Species in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the factors causing their decline continue to operate.

**Vulnerable:** Species likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the factors causing their decline continue to operate.

**Threatened Species:** A species or community that is vulnerable or endangered.

**Biological Diversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources, this includes diversity within species, between species and ecosystems. Components include genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

### *Principal Reason*

*Provides the means and process of actively determining the significant natural areas and other significant habitats within the District. Significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna include all those areas or habitats described in Table B2 unless a property assessment determines otherwise.*

**Table B2:**

**Definitions for Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Significant Habitats of Indigenous Fauna**

When interpreting these Definitions reference should be made to the “Land Types<sup>1</sup> in Timaru District” map which forms part of these Definitions and Appendix 1 which lists Threatened Species.

<p><b>General</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any indigenous vegetation above 900m altitude.</li> <li>• Any vegetation community that includes a threatened plant species listed in Appendix 1.</li> <li>• Any area important for part of the life cycle (including breeding, roosting and feeding) for the threatened species as listed in Appendix 1.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coastal Wetlands</b></p>	<p>Any coastal wetland including the water, associated marginal salt marshes and mudflats, coastal gravels and the contiguous brackish and fresh water vegetation, with any of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the native salt marsh species in the following genera: <i>Zostera</i> (seagrass), <i>Plagianthus</i> (salt marsh ribbonwood), <i>Juncus</i> (sea rush), <i>Leptocarpus</i> (oioi, jointed wire rush), <i>Selliera</i>, <i>Samolus</i> (sea primrose), <i>Sarcocornia</i> (glasswort), <i>Mimulus</i> (native musk), <i>Puccinellia</i> (saltmarsh grass);</li> <li>• the native fresh water species in the following genera: <i>Typha</i> (raupo), <i>Cortaderia</i> (toetoe), <i>Phormium</i> (flax), <i>Carex</i> (sedges), <i>Eleocharis</i> (spike rush), <i>Juncus</i> (rushes).</li> </ul> <p><b>Edge definition:</b> The dryland-wetland edge is defined as where the above listed individual native species are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• growing amongst other vegetation;</li> <li>• are spaced less than 4 times (x) the ungrazed height of that species apart;</li> <li>• within this defined area the canopy cover of the native species is more than 20% of the total ground cover.</li> <li>• mudflats, which often have sparse vegetation cover are included in this wetland definition.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Freshwater wetlands</b></p> <p>(Continued next page)</p>	<p>Permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions including<sup>2</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any wetland greater than 100 square metres in area of the hills,</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The Land Types defined in the Land Types in Timaru District map on pB-28 are a guide only as they have been defined at a 1:250,000 scale.

<sup>2</sup> Wetlands are now relatively uncommon in Timaru District. Consequently even 100 square metre remnant wetlands, with native wetland species, are potentially significant in the context of the district. They are also likely to be sustainable provided the hydrology and soils are maintained and weeds are managed.



<p>(Continued from previous page)</p>	<p>downlands and plains that includes native fresh water species of <i>Phormium</i> (New Zealand flax) or toetoe or <i>Schoenus</i> (bog-rush) or <i>Baumea</i> (rushes) or <i>Blechnum minus</i> (swamp kiokio) or <i>Carex secta</i> (pukio or tussock sedge) or <i>Bulbinella angustifolia</i> (as indicators of original or very old wetland rather than recent reinvasion); and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any wetland greater than 2000 square metres in area including the native fresh water species in the following genera: <i>Typha</i> (raupo) or <i>Cortaderia</i> (toetoe) or <i>Phormium</i> (NZ flax) or <i>Carex</i> (sedges) or <i>Eleocharis</i> (spike sedge) or <i>Juncus</i> (rushes) or <i>Potamogeton</i> (pondweed) or <i>Sphagnum</i> (sphagnum moss) or <i>Schoenus</i> (in the high country); and/or</li> <li>• Any wetland greater than 100 square metres in area with more than 20 individual plants of any tussock-forming sedges (eg <i>Carex secta</i>, (pukio), <i>Carex flagillifera</i> (purei) or <i>Carex tenuiculmis</i> or tussock grasses (eg <i>Chionochoa rubra</i> (red tussock)).</li> </ul> <p><b>Edge definition:</b> The dryland-wetland edge is defined as where the species identified above are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• growing amongst other vegetation;</li> <li>• are spaced less than 4 times (x) the ungrazed height of that species apart;</li> <li>• within this defined area the canopy cover of the native species is more than 20% of the total ground cover</li> </ul>
<p><b>Forest remnants &amp; Woodlands</b></p> <p>(Continued next page)</p>	<p><b>All Land Types:</b> Any naturally occurring forest or forest remnant (and including regeneration and restoration plantings) of more than 0.2ha with a 70% canopy cover of more than 50% native species that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any native podocarp (totara, halls totara, rimu, kahikatea, matai, miro, <i>Libocedrus</i>, <i>Phyllocladus</i>, <i>Halocarpus</i>) or <i>Nothofagus</i> (beech) species taller than 6 m in height, and/or</li> <li>• <i>Sophora</i> (kowhai) or <i>Elaeocarpus</i> (pokaka) taller than 4 m and/or</li> <li>• Any naturally occurring <i>Cordyline</i> (cabbage tree) or kanuka grove with more than 5 trees spaced less than 4 times (x) their height apart and/or</li> <li>• Any kanuka or manuka taller than 4m; and/or</li> <li>• Any of the following native species taller than 2.5m: broadleaf or fuchsia or lemonwood or lowland ribbonwood or <i>Hoheria</i> or <i>Pseudopanax</i> or <i>Hebe</i> or <i>Olearia</i> or mahoe.</li> </ul> <p><b>In addition, on the Plains:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any forest remnant with one of the following native species taller than 2.5m and with more than 20% canopy cover including kanuka, or manuka, or broadleaf, or fuchsia or lemonwood, or lowland ribbonwood, or <i>Hoheria</i>, or <i>Pseudopanax</i>, or <i>Hebe</i>, or</li> </ul>

<p>(Continued from previous page)</p>	<p><i>Olearia</i>, or mahoe; and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any naturally occurring individual native tree (other than cabbage tree) taller than 2.5m or any naturally occurring grove of cabbage trees or kanuka with more than 5 trees spaced less than 4 times their height apart;</li> </ul> <p><b>Edge definition:</b> The forest remnant edge is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the above listed individual native species are spaced less than 4 times (x) the height of that species apart;</li> <li>within this defined area the canopy cover of the native species is more than 20% of the total ground cover.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shrublands and individual shrubs</b></p>	<p><b>On the plains:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any naturally occurring native shrubland species (and including regeneration and restoration plantings) for example <i>Discaria</i> (matagouri), <i>Carmichaelia</i> (native brooms), <i>Olearia</i>, <i>Coprosma</i>, <i>Melicytus</i>, kanuka and manuka, ie includes any individual of the above.</li> </ul> <p><b>Soft rock hills and downs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any area of more than 0.5ha with more than 5% cover of native shrubland species; and/or</li> <li>Any of the following naturally occurring shrubland species: <i>Teucrium</i> or <i>Sophora prostrata</i> (prostrate kowhai) or <i>Aristotelia fruticosa</i> or <i>Coprosma virescens</i> or <i>C. intertexta</i> or <i>Melicytus alpinus</i> or <i>Olearia sp</i> or <i>Carmichaelia australis</i> or <i>Carmichaelia torulosa</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hard rock hills &amp; downs, intermontane basins and mountain ranges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any area of more than 0.5ha with more than 15% coverage of native shrubland species other than matagouri or manuka; (the remaining 85% may include matagouri and manuka) and/or</li> <li>Any area with matagouri taller than 2m where there are more than 5 trees of this height, spaced less than 4 times (x) their height apart, and the vegetation has not been cleared or modified by land management practices for 20 years; and/or</li> <li>Any area with manuka taller than 3m on the intermontane basins and mountain ranges and taller than 4m on the hard rock hills and downs where there are more than 5 trees of this height, spaced less than 4 times their height apart.</li> </ul> <p><b>Edge Definition:</b> The shrubland edge is defined as where the above listed individual native species are spaced less than 8 times (x) the ungrazed height of that species apart (Note: the edge definitions for the taller matagouri and manuka are included as part of their definitions above).</p>

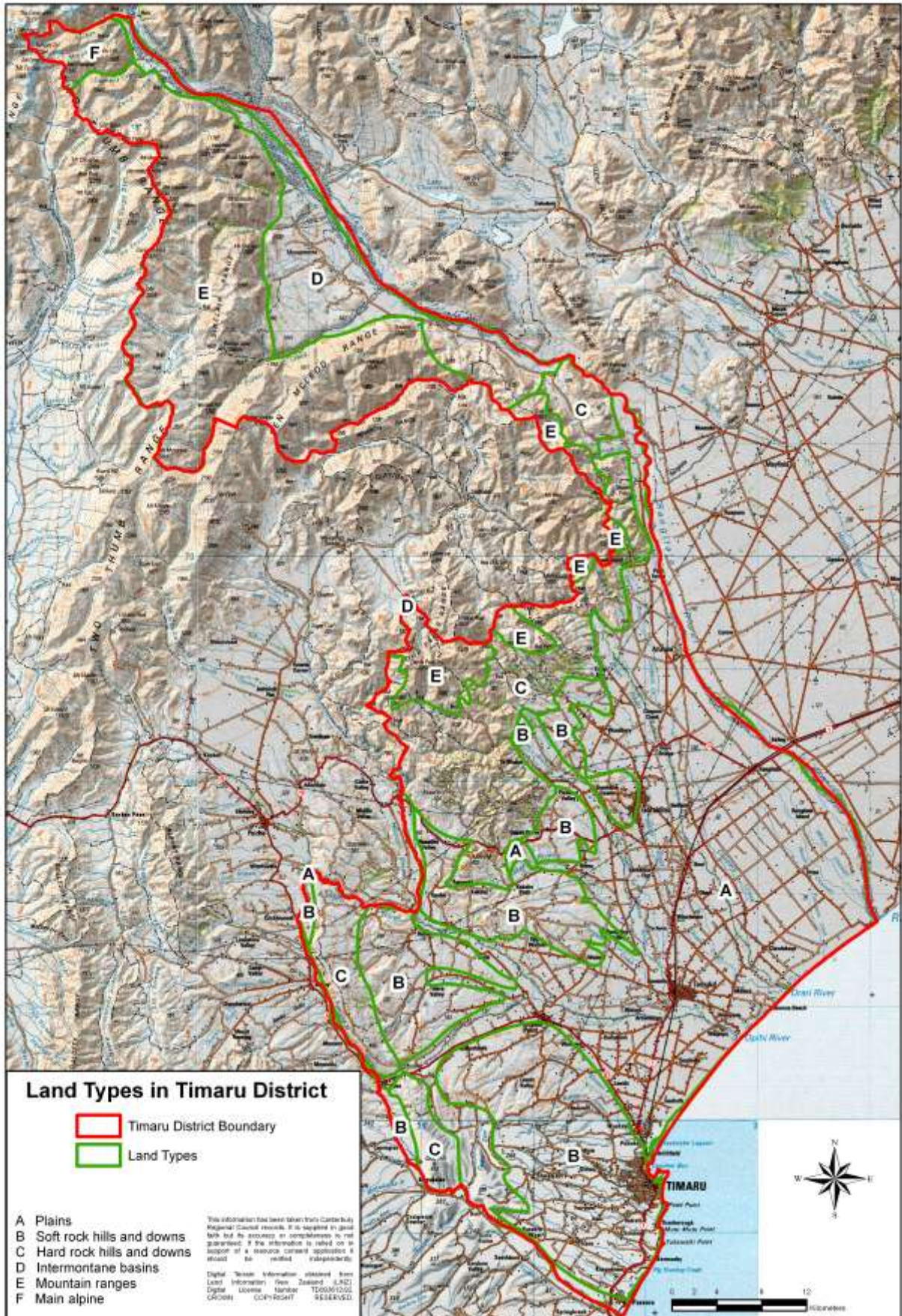
<p><b>Grasslands</b></p>	<p><b>On the plains:</b> All <i>Danthonia</i>, <i>Poa cita</i> (silver tussock) and <i>Festuca novaezelandiae</i> (hard tussock) and <i>Chionochloa spp</i> grassland remnants and/or including <i>Aciphylla sp</i>.</p> <p><b>On the soft rock hills &amp; downlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All hard tussock and <i>Chionochloa spp</i> (tall tussock); and/or</li> <li>• Silver tussock with a density of more than 10% canopy cover.</li> </ul> <p><b>On the hard rock hills and downlands, intermontane and mountain ranges, subalpine and alpine herbfields:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short tussock grasslands (<i>Poa</i> (silver &amp; blue) and fescue) of more than 30% canopy cover; and/or</li> <li>• Any area of more than 35% canopy cover of <i>Chionochloa spp</i> (tall tussock grasslands), or <i>Celmisia spp</i>, <i>Hebe spp</i>, or <i>Dracophyllum spp</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rivers and their margins</b></p>	<p><b>The importance of rivers and their margins is covered by the definitions of the habitat for threatened species in this table and by rules and performances standards in the District Plan (including General Rule 6.4).</b></p>

## APPENDIX 1: THREATENED SPECIES

### Threatened Species recorded, or likely to be present, in Timaru District

Taxonomic Group	Common Name	Taxon	Threat Classification
Bat	Long-tailed bat (South Island)	<i>Chalinolobus tuberculata</i> (South Island)	2 Nationally endangered
Bird	Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Bird	Banded dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	5 Gradual decline
Bird	Black stilt	<i>Himantopus novaeseelandiae</i>	1 Nationally critical
Bird	Black-billed gull	<i>Larus bulleri</i>	4 Serious decline
Bird	Black-fronted tern	<i>Sterna albostrata</i>	4 Serious decline
Bird	Blue duck, whio	<i>Hymenolaimus malachorhynchus</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Bird	Caspian tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	3 Nationally vulnerable
Bird	Eastern falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i> "eastern"	5 Gradual decline
Bird	Grey Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa superciliosa</i>	4 Serious decline
Bird	Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Bird	Long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>	5 Gradual decline
Bird	New Zealand pigeon, kereru, kukupa	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	5 Gradual decline
Bird	Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Bird	Rock wren	<i>Xenicus gilviventris</i>	3 Nationally vulnerable
Bird	Sooty shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	5 Gradual decline
Bird	South Island kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis meridionalis</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Bird	White heron	<i>Egretta alba modesta</i>	1 Nationally critical
Bird	White-flippered penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor albosignata</i>	3 Nationally vulnerable
Bird	White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata striata</i>	5 Gradual decline
Bird	Wrybill, ngutu-parore	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>	3 Nationally vulnerable
Bird	Yellow-crowned kakariki	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>	5 Gradual decline
Bird	Yellow-eyed penguin	<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>	3 Nationally vulnerable
Freshwater fish	Canterbury mudfish	<i>Neochanna burrowsius</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Freshwater fish	Giant kokopu	<i>Galaxias argenteus</i>	5 Gradual decline
Freshwater fish	Lamprey	<i>Geotria australis</i>	6 Sparse
Freshwater fish	Long finned eel	<i>Anguilla dieffenbachii</i>	5 Gradual decline
Freshwater fish	Longjaw galaxias	<i>Galaxias prognathus</i>	6 Sparse

<b>Taxonomic Group</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Threat Classification</b>
Reptile	Jewelled gecko	<i>Naultinus gemmeus</i>	5 Gradual decline
Reptile	Rough gecko	<i>Naultinus rudis</i>	5 Gradual decline
Reptile	Scree skink	<i>Oligosoma waimatense</i>	5 Gradual decline
Reptile	Spotted skink	<i>Oligosoma lineocellatum</i>	5 Gradual decline
Terrestrial invertebrate	Forest ringlet	<i>Dodonidia helmsii</i>	5 Gradual decline
Terrestrial invertebrate	Grasshopper	<i>Brachaspis</i> "owland"	2 Nationally endangered
Terrestrial invertebrate	Moth	<i>Gingidiobora subobscurata</i> species complex	5 Gradual decline
Terrestrial invertebrate	Moth	<i>Helastia expolita</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Terrestrial invertebrate	Moth	<i>Xanthorhoe bulbulata</i> (Guenee, 1868)	1 Nationally critical
Terrestrial invertebrate	Nemertine worm	<i>Antiponemertes allisonae</i> (Moore, 1973)	1 Nationally critical
Terrestrial invertebrate	Stephens Island weevil	<i>Anagotus stephenensis</i> Kuschel, 1982	2 Nationally endangered
Vascular plant		<i>Alepis flavida</i>	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Australopyrum calcis</i> subsp. <i>optatum</i>	3 Nationally vulnerable
Vascular plant		<i>Brachyglottis sciadophila</i> (Raoul) B.Nord.	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Carmichaelia crassicaule</i>	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Carmichaelia kirkii</i>	2 Nationally endangered
Vascular plant		<i>Coprosma pedicellata</i>	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Coprosma wallii</i>	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Gentianella</i> aff. <i>astonii</i> (b) (CHR 529111; Pareora River)	1 Nationally critical
Vascular plant		<i>Isolepis basilaris</i> Hook.f.	4 Serious decline
Vascular plant		<i>Luzula celata</i> Edgar	4 Serious decline
Vascular plant		<i>Melicytus flexuosus</i> Molloy et A.P.Druce	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Olearia fimbriata</i> Heads	4 Serious decline
Vascular plant		<i>Peraxilla colensoi</i> (Hook.f.) Tiegh.	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i> Tiegh.	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Raoulia monroi</i>	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Teucrium parvifolium</i> Hook.f.	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Tupeia antarctica</i> (G.Forst.) Cham. et Schlecht.	5 Gradual decline
Vascular plant		<i>Urtica linearifolia</i> (Hook.f.) Cockayne	5 Gradual decline



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- (8) Encouraging covenanting or purchase of natural areas where appropriate to satisfy the objectives and policies in this section.

*Principal Reason*

*To provide protection for selected areas in the District where the conservation values present are so significant that the Council thinks it appropriate to have protection included on the title.*

- (9) Encouraging vegetation enhancement programmes within esplanade reserves or strips, and in or adjacent to natural areas, using locally genetically sourced indigenous plants.

*Principal Reason*

*Plants grown from local gene stocks are an important means of maintaining the viability and diversity of indigenous plants species, increasing the survival rates of remaining indigenous plant populations and providing a food source for indigenous animals.*

- (10) Participating in publicity programmes aimed at raising the awareness of landowners and the general public about the benefits of protecting riparian and coastal margins and the means by which protection and enhancement may be achieved.

*Principal Reason*

*This approach offers a non-regulatory means of increasing community awareness of the benefits of esplanade protection measures.*

- (11) Liaise with Kati Huirapa, local authorities, other agencies, landowners and interested groups to promote community concerns about the impact of land use practices on conservation values present in the District.

*Principal Reason*

*It is important that the Council be involved in ongoing consultation with individuals and groups within the community to ensure public awareness is increased. The Canterbury Regional Council also has Regional Plans which apply in and along waterways.*

- (12) Encouraging alternative land management practices through the use of educational programmes and/or economic incentives to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of land use on conservation values throughout the District.

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*Principal Reason*

*An important aspect of raising public awareness is providing a range of alternative, less environmentally damaging, land use options.*

- (13) Endorsing the Water Users Code produced by the Department of Conservation and other safety and environmental care codes to advocate improved land management practices.

*Principal Reason*

*To increase public awareness of alternative ways to dispose of waste and avoid contamination of aquatic systems.*

- (14) Carrying out District wide investigations to further identify and prioritise waterways for protection, using the esplanade provisions of the Resource Management Act.

*Principal Reason*

*Further detailed investigations of individual rivers will be carried out subsequent to the District Plan being completed, with a view to further refining the list of rivers in General Rule 6.4*

- (15) Include rules to control land uses such as grazing, earthworks, vegetation clearance, structures and exotic plantings in river and coastal margins, to improve the quality of degraded land and water ecosystems.

*Principal Reason*

*Enables Council to control activities in river and coastal margins where land use has the potential to cause adverse environmental effects.*

- (16) Liaising with the Canterbury Regional Council to investigate the use of measures to improve water quality in the District, e.g. by excluding domestic stock from rivers, wetlands, and the coast.

*Principal Reason*

*This method acknowledges the expertise the Canterbury Regional Council has in the field of water quality management and the responsibility the Region has for the “control of land for the purpose of.....” maintaining and enhancing water quality (s30(c)(iii) RMA).*

- (17) Encourage the protection of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous animals by offering rate relief for areas



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covenanted for conservation purposes (see provisions of the Rating Powers Amendment Act 1992).

*Principal Reason*

*Provides an incentive for people who wish to protect natural areas in the District.*

- (18) Undertake further assessments of natural features and landscape values, including sites of geological value in the District.

*Principal Reason*

*The Council wishes to identify and investigate landscape and amenity values and natural features, and sites of geological importance in the District, so that through a subsequent Plan change these values may be better identified and further means examined of protecting and enhancing these values.*

- (19) Including a Schedule of Significant Trees in the District Plan and requiring a resource consent for removal or major modification (see Volume II and General Rule 6.13).

*Principal Reason*

*With landowner support and involvement enables protection of significant individual native trees that are not included in Table B2 where appropriate.*

## **ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES**

- (1) Maintaining and improving of the integrity of areas having significant natural values including the coastal environment.
- (2) Linking of neighbouring natural areas with high conservation, recreation or public access values.
- (3) Maintenance of remaining indigenous ecosystem functions.
- (4) Identification and protection of natural features and landscapes, significant areas of flora and fauna habitat; and other natural resources and places of value within the District.

## **MONITORING**

- (1) To establish state of the environment monitoring programmes of important areas of indigenous vegetation, landscapes, natural features and water bodies based on such methods as are necessary to record:

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- changes in species diversity, ground cover, and vigour of vegetation;
  - the extent of areas of indigenous vegetation and linkages between isolated areas of indigenous vegetation, particularly riparian corridors;
  - the state of natural features and landscapes, including the spread of exotic vegetation into areas of important landscape value.
- (2) To carry out monitoring programmes in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, Canterbury Regional Council, Ornithological Societies and other groups involved in surveying indigenous plant and animal populations, and soil and water quality in this District.

## **ISSUE 2**

In some areas of the District the opportunity for the Takata Whenua to gain access to mahika kai has been restricted as a result of river works, land subdivision, and changes in land ownership.

### *Explanation*

*The Resource Management Act identifies the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga, as "Matters of national importance" (s6RMA). The Act also states that the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi must be taken into account when managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources.*

## **OBJECTIVE**

- (1) That the Takata Whenua have access to those areas of the District to which they attach traditional or cultural value.

### *Principal Reason*

*Addresses Council's statutory obligation to consult with Kati Huirapa to ensure the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account.*

## **POLICY**

- (1) To create, maintain and improve opportunities for the Takata Whenua to gain access to mahika kai and other resources.

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*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Acknowledges the request by the Takata Whenua that access to their lands and other public land be improved to enable them to use mahika kai.*

**METHODS**

- (1) Consult with the Takata Whenua to identify areas where access may be improved.

*Principal Reason*

*To protect and enhance places and values of significance to Takata Whenua.*

- (2) Inviting Takata Whenua representation in meetings of the Resource Planning and Regulation Committee.

*Principal Reason*

*Provides an opportunity for early consultation with Kati Huirapa so that proposed developments take account of Takata Whenua values and safeguard opportunities for use of mahika kai.*

- (3) Consulting with the Takata Whenua over the best way to protect and enhance natural areas where there are traditional or cultural values.

*Principal Reason*

*As Kaitiaki or guardians of this area, Kati Huirapa have considerable knowledge and experience with managing natural resources.*

- (4) Using access strips to provide access to areas of traditional or cultural value to the Takata Whenua.

*Principal Reason*

*This method proposes using the access strip provisions of the Resource Management Act to provide access to land located in river or coastal margins of cultural or traditional value to the Takata Whenua.*

**ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES**

- (1) Maintenance and improvement of natural areas with traditional cultural values such as mahika kai, waahi tapu and taonga.

- 
- (2) Improved access to areas of traditional and cultural value to the Takata Whenua.

## **MONITORING**

- (1) To record the areas where public access is available through esplanade provisions (see Issue 4).

## **ISSUE 3**

- (1) The effects of residential subdivision and residential development on amenity values including visual and scenic qualities.

### *Explanation*

*All types of residential subdivision and residential development may adversely affect the amenity of an area, e.g. by reducing the visual and scenic qualities of the environment. Open space and recreation areas and facilities provide an important amenity function in many areas of the District.*

- (2) Many open space and recreation areas and facilities within the District need to be maintained and enhanced, and where appropriate, new and existing open space and recreation areas and facilities need to be developed.

### *Explanation*

*The Council's Recreation Plan (adopted in May 1997) states that the Council maintains over 520 hectares of parks and reserves together with walkways, camping grounds and fishing huts. These areas provide a wide range of recreational opportunities, from those providing for active recreational use, e.g. sports grounds, to those for passive and informal use such as gardens and picnic grounds.*

*The Recreation Plan (1997) identifies the following matters as important when considering the recreation needs of the community:*

- The most popular outdoor activity in the District, particularly with people aged 65+, is walking (this segment of the District's population is projected to continue to increase by 28% through to the year 2016);*
- Demand for camping and other facilities by overseas tourists is increasing;*
- Increased use of walking tracks and conflict with mountain bike use;*

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- *High use of water resources for informal recreation.*

*(See Issue 4 and associated provisions).*

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (1) Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of residential subdivision and residential development on the amenity values of the District.

### *Principal Reason*

*The provision of open space and recreation areas and facilities can mitigate or remedy the adverse effects of residential subdivision and residential development on the environment, especially in urban areas. Parks and gardens give visual relief in an urban landscape.*

- (2) Recognise the importance and value of open space and recreation areas and facilities and protect these areas from inappropriate use.

### *Principal Reason*

*Open space and recreation areas and facilities provide the space and facilities for people to enjoy a range of passive and active recreational activities. Buildings and some other activities within open space areas may reduce the amount of open space available for public use and should be carefully managed so that public accessibility to areas of open space is maintained.*

*The Recreation Plan (1997) identifies that there is demand for additional facilities and services including the upgrading of existing facilities (see the Objectives associated with Issue 4).*

## **POLICIES**

- (1) To enhance the environment by providing for open space and recreation areas and facilities and associated enhancement measures.

### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Open space and recreation areas and facilities improve the environment by enhancing the amenity of urban residential development. Other enhancement programmes such as “Roadside Pride” enhance the rural environment (see Policies associated with Issue 4; and Part B11(a) Amenity Values - Amenity Planting).*

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- (2) To enable the active or passive recreational use and enjoyment of open space and recreation areas and facilities and where appropriate the development of these areas.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*An extensive range of parks, gardens, sports fields, children's play grounds, picnic areas, camping areas and walkways is provided in the District for both active and passive recreational uses.*

*There is much more demand from the community to develop existing reserves than to develop new open space and recreation areas. However, a need has been identified for new neighbourhood open space in areas such as Gleniti, Timaru (see Policy 4) and additional land is needed along Saltwater (Otipua) Creek to enable the proposed walkway to link Centennial Park with the Coastal Walkway.*

*At times there may be conflicting expectations for use and development of these areas. Some areas are managed for multiple use while other areas provide for specific activities. The use of major open space and recreation areas is achieved through management plans, and activities are also managed through the District Plan.*

*Zoning the most significant open space and recreation areas and facilities as either Recreation 2 (urban), or Recreation 3 (rural) provides a means of addressing conflicts over use of these areas, and a means of avoiding, remedying, or mitigating the adverse environmental effects of activities on the environment (see Policies associated with Issue 4).*

- (3) To recognise the important contribution existing open space and recreation areas and facilities make to the District and maintain these areas so that they are continuously well presented and useable.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*The enjoyment and use of open space and recreation areas and facilities is linked with the maintenance of these areas and the management of recreational activities. There are also many privately owned areas such as private golf courses and sports grounds (see Policies associated with Issue 4).*

- (4) To require those new "neighbourhood" open space and recreation areas and facilities to be no further than 800 metres approximately from any household unit in a major urban area, i.e. Pleasant Point, Geraldine, Temuka and Timaru.

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*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*New “neighbourhood” open space areas are provided for in areas of new residential development, e.g. Gleniti, Timaru. It is important that these areas are accessible and within walking distance of nearby residences.*

- (5) To require either land or a financial contribution as a condition of granting resource consents for residential subdivision or for residential development.

In considering applications for resource consent, Council shall have regard to the following criteria in deciding whether the maximum should apply or a lesser amount should be required, or whether the requirement shall be waived:

- (a) The extent to which the residential subdivision or residential development is a replacement or modification of existing development on the site, which was of a greater or similar intensity and scale.
- (b) Whether the residential subdivision or residential development will lead to the enhancement of the natural and physical environment by:
- protecting or enhancing amenities, habitats, ecosystems, landscape features, archaeological sites, cultural values or heritage features
  - mitigating, reducing or avoiding land use activity or subdivision impacts on sensitive parts of the natural or physical environment
  - giving public access to esplanade areas, areas of indigenous vegetation or habitats, heritage features or natural landscape features
  - providing public services, roads or utilities
  - creating open spaces, landscaping, recreation areas or facilities or amenity areas additional to those required by the District Plan.
- (c) Whether the developer or subdivider is creating or retaining a natural or physical resource to be used for any of the purposes in (b) beyond that required to meet District Plan or other statutory requirements.

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- (d) The effect of the residential subdivision or residential development on the environment, whether on its own or cumulatively with other developments and/or subdivisions.
  - (e) Whether the intended use of the residential subdivision or residential development is for a retirement village complex or other institution where specific community and recreational facilities are provided.
  - (f) For residential subdivisions, whether previous provision has been made for open space and recreation area purposes on an earlier subdivision of the same land.
  - (g) The extent to which a residential subdivision or residential development will create a demand on open space and recreation areas and whether the amount of the contribution should be reduced accordingly.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*The purpose of the contribution is to help finance the development and where necessary the purchasing of land for open space and recreation areas and facilities. The majority of funding for the provision and maintenance of open space and recreation areas and facilities is anticipated to come from general rates (see Policies associated with Issue 4).*

- (6) To provide for management plans for major urban and neighbourhood open space and recreation areas and facilities.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*The quality of open space and recreation areas must be maintained and enhanced and competing expectations for the most appropriate allocation of these areas resolved. This is done in large part through the development of management plans that involve community participation. Adverse environmental effects and financial contributions on residential subdivision and residential development help to provide for open space and recreation areas and facilities and are addressed through the District Plan (see Policies associated with Issue 4).*

- (7) To provide linkages between natural areas and open space and recreation areas where appropriate, and to maintain and enhance these areas.



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### *Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Opportunities exist for the development of linkages between open space and recreation areas and facilities in the District as a means of increasing recreational opportunities and enhancing the quality of the environment and ecological functioning, eg much of the coastline adjoining Timaru City is linked by a coastal walkway. It is proposed that this walkway will be extended to link Centennial Park with the coastline. As well as enhancing the opportunities for recreational use and enjoyment of these areas this proposal provides a wildlife corridor between the coast and the Saltwater/Otipua Creek catchment (see Policies associated with Issue 4).*

### **METHODS**

- (1) Fund the provision and maintenance of open space and recreational areas and facilities through the Long Term Council Community Plan.

#### *Principal Reason*

*Reference should be made to the Long Term Council Community Plan for more specific details on the projects to be undertaken for any particular year.*

- (2) Use zoning and rules to identify the major open space and recreation areas and facilities in the District and to manage any adverse environmental effects produced by activities within these zones.

#### *Principal Reason*

*Reflects the character and patterns of use of the major open space and recreation areas and facilities in order to achieve generally common environmental results and to manage the establishment and operation of activities within zones according to their scale of effects (see Methods associated with Issue 4).*

- (3) Use contributions of land or cash at the time of residential subdivision or residential development to help develop and enhance the extensive network of open space and recreation areas and facilities in the District.

#### *Principal Reason*

*Helps to mitigate or remedy the adverse effects of residential activities on the environment, and enhances recreational opportunities. Historically, funds from rates and reserves contributions have been used to develop the existing network of open space and recreation areas. At present much of the funding for open space and recreation areas and facilities comes from general rates.*

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*New residential development is required to buy into this network and provide some additional funding to assist with development (see Methods associated with Issue 4).*

## **ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES**

- (1) Maintenance of the amenity and recreational value of existing parks, reserves, and open spaces administered by Council, and enhance the amenity of newly developed areas.

## **MONITORING**

- (1) To review the effectiveness of Policies in Part B(2) Natural Environment in meeting the Objectives in this section within three years from when the Plan becomes operative.
- (2) To survey public for satisfaction in 3-5 years and co-ordinate this programme in co-operation with interested organisations.
- (3) To evaluate expenditure of reserves funding (see “Monitoring” section in Part A).
- (4) To review the esplanade reserves or esplanade strips development strategy.
- (5) To monitor complaints from land owners and the public about management and creation of reserves.

## **ISSUE 4**

Private land tenure and some land use practices preclude recreational access to some public areas such as rivers and the coast.

### *Explanation*

*The Council has a statutory obligation to recognise and provide for access to the coast and rivers under s 6(d) Resource Management Act.*

*The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement emphasises the importance of maintaining and enhancing public access and makes achieving enhanced access an objective.*

*For the issue of public access, there is a public expectation that the “Queen’s Chain” is present along all rivers and along the coast. This is true only for parts of the District. In some areas public access is difficult to achieve, while in other areas existing opportunities for access and recreational use are being diminished where there is:*

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- *erosion and changes in the course of the river or location of waterways and the coastline;*
  - *difficulty in obtaining the permission of some landowners to cross their land.*

*The effects of activities on coastal hazard protection works will be addressed in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan. Similar provisions dealing with river hazard protection works are included in regional plans.*

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (1) That present rights of public access be retained and enhanced. That provision be made for additional access allowing the public to enjoy the amenity and recreational opportunities of the coast, rivers and places of historic and cultural interest in the District.

### *Principal Reason*

*To improve public access to areas of conservation, scenic, or recreational value in the District and to ensure existing public access is maintained. Whenever "access" is referred to it is pedestrian access that is favoured over other forms of access (see Part B (8) for non-pedestrian access).*

- (2) To provide for public recreational access to the Port while maintaining public safety.

### *Principal Reason*

*There is considerable interest in the Port of Timaru for fishing and viewing the Port area. There is a risk to the public within many areas where ships are berthing or moored, cargo operations are being undertaken, heavy vehicles or cranes are operated and logs stored, or at other locations when construction or maintenance is occurring.*

## **POLICIES**

- (1) To promote and enhance opportunities for public access and recreational use of the margins of rivers, wetlands, and coastal areas where compatible with the conservation values of these areas.

When considering whether to provide for access and recreational use of these areas, attention will be given to whether:

- (a) the area is a known recreational area, e.g. picnic or fishing spot, of importance to the community;

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- (b) the area provides a link to any areas with values identified in Part B, Policy 8 (under Issue 1); or
  - (c) there are circumstances when public access or public recreational use of the area should be restricted for the purpose of protecting:
    - (i) indigenous vegetation or habitats of indigenous fauna;
    - (ii) Tikaka Maori (Maori cultural values);
    - (iii) public health or safety; or
    - (iv) to ensure the provisions of resource consents are met.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*Recognises public concerns for improved public access to some areas of the District and to ensure existing public access is maintained.*

- (2) (a) To liaise with Port of Timaru Ltd over maximising public access to the Port, consistent with safety and the Port's operational requirements.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*As well as being a major shareholder in Port of Timaru Ltd the Council is working closely with the Port of Timaru Ltd over a number of matters of mutual interest, including public access and the improvement of the road network in this area. Because of its unique character the Port is an area where better access is desirable.*

- (b) To protect public access to parts of the Port where there are no safety conflicts with Port Operations.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*There are several parts of the Port which have been used for public access and have been identified as being appropriate for public access at times when there are no Port operations taking place. They include those parts of the Port outside of the area between Unwin Street and the Eastern Mole Extension, and several localities within that area.*

- (3) To identify, maintain and protect all legal public access.

*Principal Reason*

*Many legally available access routes are currently not identified on maps, or are unavailable for access because of landholders' denying*

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*access along them. Identifying all routes and rights of way where public are entitled to have access will improve the ability of the public to enjoy areas of conservation, scenic and amenity values, reduce conflicts with adjacent landowners and reduce public trespass on private land.*

- (4) To use esplanade reserves and esplanade strips to protect and enhance river and coastal margins and to use access strips to provide access to and along natural surface waters and the coast, and to other areas of natural, cultural or heritage value. When evaluating whether a river or coastal margin should be given protection, the area shall satisfy one or more of the criteria listed in Policy 8 under Issue 1.

*Explanation and Principal Reason*

*The Resource Management Act enables the setting aside of land along riparian or coastal margins as a condition of a Resource Consent. If this land is deemed by the Council to be an **esplanade reserve**, it becomes a local purpose reserve. If however this land is deemed by the Council to be an **esplanade strip** it remains in private ownership subject to public rights of access and use.*

*An **esplanade reserve** is an area of land along the margin of a water body (including the sea) which is defined by survey and vested in the Council. The esplanade reserve becomes a local purpose reserve under the Reserves Act and is managed in accordance with the provisions of that Act.*

*The Resource Management Act requires an esplanade reserve to be taken on the creation of an allotment of less than 4 hectares unless there is a rule in the District Plan waiving or reducing this requirement. No compensation is payable by the Council to the landowner in these circumstances unless the width of 20 metres is exceeded.*

*For allotments of 4 hectares or more an esplanade reserve is only required to be created if a rule in the District Plan requires it. The Council is liable to pay the owner compensation should a reserve be taken under these circumstances.*

*An **esplanade strip** is an area of land alongside a water body which may be created as a condition of a resource consent or at any other time subject to an agreement between the Council and the landowner. Ownership of the land remains with the landowner although restrictions on the use of the strip may be imposed on the landowner. Periodic closure of the strip is possible to accommodate land use activities. Unlike esplanade reserves, esplanade strips move with changes in the water body.*

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*An esplanade strip may be required regardless of the size of the allotment being created. For allotments of 4 hectares or more, a strip is only created if a rule in the District Plan requires it. The instrument creating the strip may be cancelled or varied according to the process outlined in the Resource Management Act.*

*An **access strip** to enable access to and along a water body or other areas of natural, cultural, or heritage value may be created by a negotiated agreement between Council and the landowner. The access strip has similarities with a walkway in that it is surveyed off and certain conditions may be imposed on land use activities in a similar way to that described for the esplanade strips. Council may agree to pay some compensation, to help reach agreement with the landowner. The easement creating the access strip may be cancelled or varied by agreement between the landowner and Council.*

## **METHODS**

- (1) Identifying the location and extent of places along the coast to which the public have the right of access and those places where public access should be enhanced, including for people with disabilities.

### *Principal Reason*

*This method proposes a comprehensive investigation of coastal margins suitable for esplanade protection and the provision of public access.*

- (2) Identifying and providing for esplanade reserves and esplanade strips along margins of rivers and the coastline and access strips in other areas where Council considers that significant access values exist (see General Rule 6.4).

### *Principal Reason*

*To improve public access to some areas of the District and ensure existing public access is maintained, and to address the statutory requirements of the Resource Management Act.*

- (3) Encouraging landowners and/or community groups to accept responsibility for management of selected accessways where this is compatible with the purpose of the reserve.

### *Principal Reason*

*To promote community “ownership” or responsibility for the parks and reserves they use and enjoy.*

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- (4) Providing public information as appropriate to inform the public of access and recreational opportunities in areas administered by the Council.

*Principal Reason*

*Increases public awareness of access and recreational opportunities.*

- (5) Using rules and conditions on resource consents to identify and provide esplanade reserves and esplanade strips along the margins of rivers and the coastline as identified in General Rule 6.4.

*Principal Reason*

*To use the esplanade provisions of the Resource Management Act to provide an additional means of protecting natural areas where they occur adjacent to waterways and the coastline.*

- (6) Keeping a record of esplanade reserves and strips and access strips in the District and making this information available to the public.

*Principal Reason*

*This method also addresses the Council's responsibilities under section 35(ja) of the Resource Management Act to document and have available information on the "location and area of all esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and access strips in the District".*

## **ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES**

- (1) Improved legal access to and along rivers, wetlands, the coast and to other areas with conservation, heritage, or cultural values.
- (2) Increased public awareness of the value of recognising and protecting the natural character of rivers and coastal areas.

## **MONITORING**

- (1) To monitor the progress of accessway establishment and the maintenance of existing accessways alongside rivers and the coastline, and to other natural areas and places of interest.
- (2) To survey public for satisfaction in 3-5 years after the Plan becomes operative; co-ordinate this programme in co-operation with interested organisations.
- (3) To review effectiveness of policy in meeting objectives in 3 years.
- (4) To evaluate expenditure of access funding.

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- (5) To review esplanade reserves/strips and access strip development strategy.
  - (6) To monitor complaints from land owners and public about management and creation of public access (see “Monitoring” section in Part A).
  - (7) To record public access provision to rivers, wetlands and the coast.