

Taranaki (1998). Subdivision adjacent to these PRIORITY WATERBODIES will require legal protection of the riparian margin through creation of an esplanade strip, covenant or by other means. In urban areas (and some rural), areas required for public access purposes have been identified as "preferred esplanade reserves or strips" (refer to Issue 18 for further detail). These will also assist in the protection and enhancement of natural character in within the District.

Regionally significant wetlands, both protected and unprotected, have been identified in the Proposed Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki (1998). Those that are unprotected are identified within this plan as SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS and the methods pertaining to them will apply accordingly.

This policy is in line with the Regional Policy statement's promotion of good land management practices to ensure the values of our land and water resources are maintained and enhanced for present and future generations.

Anticipated Environmental Result 14

A District where the value of the coastal environment, wetlands, RIVERS and lakes is recognised and the natural character preserved.

Indicators 14

- (a) Assessment of land use and subdivision consents granted in the COASTAL POLICY AREA and areas that include defined PRIORITY WATERBODIES.
- (b) Adequacy of information available to the public in the form of educational displays, pamphlets and/or design guides.
- (c) Community awareness of the importance of, threats to, and protection of natural character.

Issue 15: The potential adverse effects of inappropriate subdivision, use and development on OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES and REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES

The ACT requires the COUNCIL to recognise and provide for the protection of OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Although 'outstanding' is not defined in the ACT it may be considered to refer to those landscapes of exceptional value or of eminence or distinction on a national scale. The term landscape is difficult to define but refers to the cumulative effects of physical and cultural processes.

Following an initial assessment by LA 4 Landscape Architects in 1995 and initial community feedback on the proposed objectives, policies and rules from the Amenities Technical Paper, a Landscape Focus Group was formed. The Landscape Focus Group consisted of representatives from landowners, TANGATA WHENUA, Federated Farmers, Taranaki Regional Council, Transit New Zealand and Ministry of Agriculture.

The purpose of the Group was to audit the work already completed by LA 4 Landscape Architects and the COUNCIL. The Landscape Focus Group used a methodology which defined areas of landscape, known as landscape units, identified each unit's visual landscape characteristics and qualities, and ranked each as an OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE, REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE or neither; ie no ranking given. The visual threats likely to occur over the next 10 years to those landscape units, that were ranked OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES or REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES, were then identified.

The audit process identified the following **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES** within the District:

- Mount Taranaki/Egmont
- the Kaitake and Pouakai Mountain ranges

These landscapes are limited to within the Egmont National Park boundaries.

Although these landscapes are not under threat from activities, such as track and hut construction and maintenance, larger scale activities such as a proposal for a gondola or a COMMUNICATION FACILITY, may have adverse visual effects on this landscape. As these areas are protected by National Park status, the Egmont National Park Management Plan is the primary means to control activities proposing to locate within them.

The Landscape Focus Group identified the protection and enhancement of **REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES** as a further issue for the District. The following **REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES** were identified:

- Coastal terrace between Mohakatino and Whitecliffs;
- Whitecliffs and associated conservation forest;
- Sugar Loaf Islands and Paritutu; and
- Eight RIVER mouths as follows:
 - › Mohakatino
 - › Tongaporutu
 - › Mimi
 - › Urenui
 - › Onaero
 - › Waiongana
 - › Tapuae
 - › Hangatahua (Stony)

The development threats to the **REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES** are considered to be low over the next 10 years. However, there is the possibility of development, other than usual rural development, such as COMMUNICATION FACILITIES and tourist facilities, which may have adverse visual impacts on the **REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES**. Although the likelihood of such developments occurring is low, such activities have the potential to have high visual impacts on the **REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES**.

Objective 15

To protect and enhance **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES** and **REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES** within the District.

Policy 15.1

Subdivision, use and development should not result in adverse visual effects on, and should enhance, where practicable, the following **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES**:

- Mount Taranaki/Egmont; and
- the Kaitake and Pouakai Mountain ranges.

Methods of Implementation 15.1

- (a) Identify the **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES** on the planning maps.
- (b) Use assessment criteria to consider the visual impact of development on the **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES** for all resource consent applications that may visually affect the **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES**.
- (c) Publicly notify resource consent applications that may have an adverse visual impact on the **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES**.
- (d) Liaise with the Taranaki Regional Council and Department of Conservation regarding any resource consents for developments which may have adverse visual impacts on the **OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES**.