

APP3 – Criteria for evaluating the significance of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna

The following criteria have been used to evaluate the ecological significance of the areas contained in SCHED6 – Significant Natural Areas and included on the Planning Maps. The criteria are also to be used for the evaluation of areas that have not previously been investigated as part of resource consent processes.

Areas will be considered significant where they meet one or more of the following criteria.

<p>1. Representativeness</p>	<p>An area that is an example of an indigenous vegetation type or habitat that is typical or characteristic of the natural diversity of the relevant ecological district or coastal marine biogeographic region. This may include degraded examples of their type or represent all that remains of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in some areas.</p>
<p>2. Rarity</p>	<p>An area that supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an indigenous species that is threatened, at risk, or uncommon, nationally, or within an ecological district or coastal marine biogeographic region; b) indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna that has been reduced to less than 20% of its former extent nationally, regionally or within a relevant land environment, ecological district, coastal marine biogeographic region or freshwater environment, including wetlands; c) indigenous vegetation and habitats within originally rare ecosystems.
<p>3. Diversity</p>	<p>An area that supports a high diversity of indigenous ecosystem types, indigenous taxa, or has changes in species composition reflecting the existence of diverse natural features or gradients.</p>
<p>4. Distinctiveness</p>	<p>An area that supports or provides habitat for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) indigenous species at their distributional limit within Otago or nationally; b) indigenous species that are endemic to the Otago region; c) indigenous vegetation, or an association of indigenous species that is distinctive, of restricted occurrence, or has developed as a result of an unusual environmental factor or combinations of factors.
<p>5. Ecological Context</p>	<p>The relationship of the area with its surroundings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an area that has important connectivity value allowing dispersal of indigenous vegetation and fauna between different areas; b) an important buffering function that helps to protect the values of an adjacent area or feature; c) an area that is important for indigenous fauna during some part of their life cycle, either regularly or on an irregular basis, e.g. for feeding, nesting, breeding, or refuges from predation.
<p>6. Coastal Environment</p>	<p>An area identified in accordance with Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.</p>