


 WAITAKI  
DISTRICT  
PLAN  
REVIEW

# Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity (ECO)

## What are the key issues we need to think about?

New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity evolution is exceptional and unique. However, it has been adversely affected by a variety of human activities. Waitaki's remaining indigenous biodiversity is fragmented and indigenous species continue to decline.

The main threats to indigenous biodiversity in the district are from indigenous vegetation clearance, earthworks, expansion and intensification of pastoral activities, the spread of wilding conifers and climate change.



## What does it mean for me?

*Any lawfully established existing businesses or activities have what is referred to as 'existing use rights' and could continue to operate unchanged.*

**If your property has an identified Significant Natural Area, this would generally not affect you unless you were proposing to undertake activities that could damage the values of the site. This could include large new buildings, exotic tree planting, agricultural intensification (including irrigation), indigenous vegetation clearance, earthworks, mining or quarrying. For these activities, a resource consent would likely be needed.**

## What are we suggesting in the Draft District Plan?

We have undertaken surveys to identify Significant Natural Areas (SNA) and these have been mapped. Some SNAs remain unmapped but we still need to provide protection for these areas. In addition to the regulatory methods being considered, WDC also provides incentives, education and advocacy for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity through the Biodiversity Fund and the employment of a specialist Biodiversity Advisor.

The key objective of the chapter is to halt the decline of the district's indigenous biodiversity by protecting, restoring and/or enhancing SNAs to ensure that there is no net loss of indigenous biodiversity as a result of land use activities. SNAs

are protected from inappropriate earthworks and indigenous vegetation clearance. Areas adjoining SNAs are also protected from the planting of exotic species. The chapter also recognises the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity within their rohe, providing for mana whenua involvement in the management of indigenous biodiversity and ensuring that Hutia te Rito (health and wellbeing of our environment, its ecosystems and unique indigenous plants and animals) is recognised and provided for.

You can view the draft SNAs and full draft chapter on our website.

## Key changes from the current rules

- SNAs have been mapped.
- Updated objectives and policies to support the protection of indigenous biodiversity and recognition of the threats and risks to SNAs.
- Support for the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity through landowner engagement, incentives, education and enabling activities that improve biodiversity values.
- Recognition of the impacts of climate change on indigenous biodiversity.
- Recognition of the role of mana whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity within their rohe

## Find out more

You can view the full draft chapter on our website

visit [www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review)

or scan for more info



## More questions?

If you have any further questions that aren't covered in this document, or on our website, you can email the Planning Team at [planreview@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:planreview@waitaki.govt.nz) or call the District Plan Review hotline on 03 433 1661 and leave a message.

## Summary of the new rules being considered

### **Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:**

- Indigenous vegetation clearance outside SNAs where it is for the repair and maintenance of specified areas and certain standards and conditions are met, or where it is of certain specified vegetation, or it is for mahika kai purposes.
- Indigenous vegetation clearance inside an SNA where it is for the repair and maintenance of specified areas, or it is for mahika kai purposes.
- Earthworks within SNAs where it is for the repair and maintenance of tracks, yards, fences etc.

### **Activities that would require a resource consent:**

- Exotic plantation forestry, agricultural intensification, quarrying or mining activities adjacent to an SNA within specified setbacks.
- Earthworks within SNAs where it is not for the repair and maintenance of specified areas or conditions are not all met.
- Plantation forestry, agricultural intensification, quarrying or mining activities within an SNA.
- Other land use activities that are not specifically permitted.

### **Prohibited Activities:**

- Planting non-indigenous vegetation within an SNA.
- Planting species that result in wilding conifers within an SNA, or within 100m of an SNA.