

Section 32 Report

Te taiao o te takutai moana/ Coastal Environment

prepared for the

Proposed Waimakariri District Plan

18 September 2021



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The coastal environment comprises of beaches, dunes and upland areas. It includes land and water resources that are influenced by coastal processes and character. It extends from the Kairaki Beach in the south, to north of the Ashley-Rakahuri/Saltwater Creek Estuary and up to one kilometre inland in some areas.

Across the Waimakariri District, the coast provides for a range of living, working and recreation activities and can be subject to development pressures. Subdivision, land use and development, including coastal protection and coastal infrastructure, must be managed carefully to avoid compromising the natural character values, and other coastal influences, processes and values.

The purpose of the Proposed Coastal Environment chapter is to address key resource management issues related to the coastal environment. This includes those identified through the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 and issues identified as part of the District Plan Review. The key focus of the provisions is to preserve the natural character values of the terrestrial, or land-based area of the coastal environment.

While coastal hazards are a key feature of the coastal environment, the Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter does not contain provisions for managing these. Rather these are contained within the natural hazards chapter because:

- areas subject to sea water inundation and tsunami extend beyond the identified coastal environment, and as such relevant provisions would need to be located in both chapters;
- sea water inundation largely occurs in the district through river channels and drains and is therefore dependent on the level of freshwater flow in the drains at the time of inundation. As such sea water inundation is more accurately defined as a combined hazard, rather than being only a coastal hazard;
- the area subject to sea water inundation largely coincides with the areas subject to freshwater flooding so combining the provisions in one chapter is simpler; and
- coastal erosion is not occurring within the lifetime of the district plan because the material supply from the Waimakariri River is greater than the rate of sea level rise.

The potential effectiveness of the provisions responding to coastal hazards are therefore not analysed within this report and are subject to a separate Section 32 assessment for natural hazards.

A number of resource management issues have been identified in the coastal environment as part of the District Plan Review. The key issues are:

- a. The potential loss or degradation of the natural character of the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use or development;
- b. The potential loss of or reduction in opportunities for public access to, and along the landward edge of the CMA or any adverse effects created as a result of public access; and
- c. People and communities need to be able to provide for their social and economic wellbeing.

The provisions of the proposed chapter are similar to the operative chapter with some changes to the format and structure of the provisions, and strengthening of the provisions to protect identified natural character areas. Another key change is that the coastal environment is now mapped as an overlay in the Proposed Plan. This identifies the extent of the environment, and which properties are subject to the provisions of the overlay.

In addition to above, the proposed chapter is activities-based, which is consistent with the most recent edition of the National Planning Standards. Furthermore, the provisions have been revised to give effect to the most recent New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement released in 2010.

The Proposed chapter now better reflects cultural values, and is more consistent with the Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan 2013 and reflects the feedback received from Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga as part of the District Plan review.

The provisions manage activities such as vegetation clearance, planting of vegetation, public amenities, buildings and structures within, and in close proximity to the natural character areas. It is anticipated that the outcome of the proposed provisions will better preserve the natural character of the coastal environment.

2. OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

2.1 Purpose of Section 32 RMA

The overarching purpose of Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is to ensure that plans are developed using sound evidence and rigorous policy analysis, leading to more robust and enduring provisions.

Section 32 reports are intended to clearly and transparently communicate the reasoning behind plan provisions to the public. The report should provide a record of the evaluation process, including the consultation, technical work, methods, assumptions and risks that informed that process. A robust report can prove highly useful to decision makers, particularly where it clearly communicates the analysis undertaken to identify the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA.

The District Council is required to undertake an evaluation of any proposed District Plan provisions before notifying those provisions. The Section 32 report provides the reasoning and rationale for the proposed provisions (including compared to any relevant operative provisions) and should be read in conjunction with those provisions.

2.2 Topic Description

In the Proposed District Plan, the ***Coastal Environment*** chapter is part of ***Part 2 – District Wide Matters – General District-Wide Matters***.

The coastal environment of the Waimakariri District extends from Kairaki Beach in the south, to the north of the Ashley-Rakahuri/Saltwater Creek Estuary and up to one kilometre inland in some areas. The terrestrial, or land-based area of the coastal environment, has been identified through assessment of coastal landscape and ecology, and natural character, and is comprised of beaches, dunes, coastal wetlands, estuaries, upland areas and intertidal areas.

The District Council is responsible for managing subdivision, land use and development activities in the terrestrial coastal environment, which is the area landward of the Mean High Water Spring (MHWS) mark. Areas seaward of this boundary, known as the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) are managed by the Canterbury Regional Council.

The coastal environment provides for a range of living, working and recreational activities and can be subject to development pressures. The purpose of the Coastal Environment Chapter is to preserve the

values of the District's coastal environment and maintain and enhance public access to the CMA. This includes preserving natural character, amenity, recreation, public access and open space

Provisions for managing the coastal environment must give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS). In addition, the National Planning Standards require provisions for managing coastal hazards to be located in the coastal environment chapter. Provisions relating to coastal hazards are analysed in the Natural Hazards Section 32.

There have been a number of changes between the Operative Chapter and the Proposed Chapter. For example, the Operative chapter is effects-based, contains very few rules, and does not identify or map the extent of the coastal environment which makes it difficult to determine where the provisions should apply. Furthermore, the Operative Chapter manages coastal water quality, which is a function of the Canterbury Regional Council. However, the Proposed Chapter is now activities-based, contains a wider range of rules that give effect to the objectives and policies and has mapped the coastal environment in accordance with the NZCPS.

2.2.1 Relationship of the Coastal Environment chapter to other parts of the District Plan

The structure of district plans mandated by the National Planning Standards (see Section 3.2.1 below) is based around each topic or zone being in its own stand-alone chapter with its own provisions. Provisions from other chapters in the Proposed District Plan also apply in the coastal environment, these include:

- (a) Natural features and landscapes;
- (b) Natural character of freshwater bodies;
- (c) Earthworks;
- (d) Ecosystems and Indigenous biodiversity;
- (e) Sites of significance to Māori;
- (f) Energy and Infrastructure;
- (g) Rural lifestyle zone;
- (h) General residential zone; and
- (i) Natural open space zone.

The coastal environment overlay includes areas with the underlying zoning of Rural lifestyle, Natural Open Space and General Residential. This means that provisions in the Proposed Coastal Environment chapter apply in addition to those in the underlying zones. Furthermore, the coastal environment contains Outstanding Natural Features, Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), Sites of Significance to Māori and Infrastructure. As such, the applicable district-wide provisions from these chapters will also apply in the Coastal Environment.

2.3 Significance of this Topic

The coastal environment is a significant resource for the community and provides for a range of living, working and recreational activities. It also contains areas with high natural values, such as areas of indigenous vegetation and relatively unmodified ecosystems with high natural character attributes.

Collectively, these make an important contribution to the amenity of the coast, and a significant contribution to the biodiversity of the District.

The District Council has the responsibility under section 6(a) of the RMA to provide for, as a matter of national importance the *“preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development”*.

The coastal environment contains areas with high natural character and is subject to extensive ecological restoration efforts by Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust who manage a large area of the coastal environment between Pines Beach and Waikuku. These areas are protected in the Proposed Chapter by managing subdivision, use and development that may compromise natural character attributes.

The implications for private landowners are reduced within the overlay as much of the area within the overlay is located within the Proposed Natural Open Space Zone which is public land and mostly managed by Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust. While some areas are zoned General Residential and Rural Lifestyle, the Proposed Chapter provides for most activities that would be expected within these zones (subject to activity standards) and the overall number of landowners that will be affected by the provisions relative to other chapters is low.

Please note that section 6 provides an assessment on the scale and significance of the coastal hazard provisions.

2.4 Current Objectives, Policies and Methods

The Operative Coastal Environment Chapter objectives, policies and methods are summarised in **Appendix three** of this report.

The Operative District Plan is effects-based and contains a range of objectives and policies for protecting the natural character of the coastal environment, and public access to the CMA. Rules for the coastal environment are addressed across the Plan such as earthworks, water body setbacks, vegetation clearance and subdivision limits for beach settlements.

The Operative Coastal Environment Chapter also contains rules to provide for vehicle access through the dune areas near Waikuku. This was incorporated into the Plan as a result of Plan Change 26 to integrate the District Plan with the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw.

2.5 Information and Analysis

Table One: List of relevant background assessments and reports

Title	Author
District Plan Effectiveness Review	<i>Waimakariri District Council, March 2017</i>
Description of Reports	
An assessment of the effectiveness of the Operative District Plan was undertaken as an early step to identify issues and gaps for the District Plan Review. The review included an assessment of resource consent applications and conditions for a variety of topics, other methods used to manage activities outside the District Plan, and a range of internal and external policy and legislative influences.	

The key findings with respect to the coastal environment are outlined below:

- (a) Provisions contain a wide range of objectives and policies, but only two rules which relate to the Ashley River Mouth. The purpose of these rules is unclear, but may be related to the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016;
- (b) Duplication with other controls such as the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016 should be avoided;
- (c) Ensure the Proposed District Plan gives effect to the NZCPS and the RPS, and not inconsistent with the Regional Coastal Environment Plan;
- (d) Provisions do not address coastal hazards and these are not covered in the Natural Hazards chapter;
- (e) The extent of the terrestrial coastal environment needs to be defined to better apply the provisions in the coastal environment chapter;
- (f) The Coastal Marine Area boundary has changed and needs to be updated;
- (g) The Proposed District Plan should consider coastal landscape and coastal biodiversity values, including the significant wildlife values of the Ashley River Mouth to explicitly reflect Section 6 of the RMA;
- (h) An integrated approach is needed to reflect the interconnection of values in the coastal environment. The District's coast has significant cultural values in relation to mahinga kai, and also landscape and heritage values and cultural landscapes. This overlap should be considered in terms of plan structure;
- (i) Engage with Ngāi Tahu to identify coastal areas of significance and/or characteristics of the coastal environment that are of special value to Ngāi Tahu;
- (j) The Plan does not acknowledge customary rights of trustees of the Fenton Reserve which allows for vehicle access via the Ashley River Mouth to collect mahinga kai;
- (k) Key issues facing the District's coastal environment include competing recreational uses of beaches, including long line fishers, kite surfers, recreational riders, horse trainers, land yachts, jet skis, walkers, picnickers, bird watches and swimmers; and
- (l) Other issues in the coastal environment include sand dune protection, protection of internationally significant wildlife and species such as tuatua which support these populations and declining water quality in wetland/estuary environments due to reduced river flows.

Title	Author
Waimakariri Coastal Natural Character Study	<i>Boffa Miskell Limited, May 2018</i>
Description of Reports	
The District Council commissioned Boffa Miskell Limited to undertake an assessment of the District's coastal environment. This included identifying the extent of the terrestrial coastal environment (the land-based area) and the identification of areas with high natural character values.	

In the context of the report, natural character is based on a spectrum from highly modified environments (very low natural character) to unmodified environments (outstanding natural character). Highly modified environments have been subject to degradation and human influence whereas unmodified environments maintain naturally functioning ecosystems with much less human influence.

Areas of the coastal environment in the District with the highest natural character values include:

- (a) The Ashley-Rakahuri /Saltwater Creek Estuary – Outstanding Natural Character;
- (b) Jockey-Baker Creek – Very High Natural Character;
- (c) Te Kōhanga Wetlands and the Tūtaepatu Lagoon – High Natural Character Values.

2.6 Consultation Undertaken

Extensive consultation has been undertaken as part of this District Plan Review process with key stakeholders, the local community, and landowners identified in the coastal environment. Feedback from the consultations undertaken is summarised below:

2.6.1 Issues and Options Consultation 2017

Feedback from the Issues and Options Consultation undertaken in 2017 outlined the need for the coastal environment to be defined, and sought greater protection to be given to features of the coastal environment such as the Ashley-Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary and the Tūhaitara Coastal Park. This feedback is summarised in Appendix 4.

2.6.2 What's the Plan? 2019

Further consultation for the coastal environment was undertaken in July 2019 as part of the '*What's the Plan?*' consultation which sought feedback from the community on the proposed directions for the District Plan Review. General comments sought greater protection for the coastal environment, with some respondents wanting controls on vehicles.

Respondents also frequently requested the Council address issues such as climate change and natural hazards. The feedback is summarised in the Appendix 5.

2.6.3 Private Landowners

In 2019 the District Council contacted landowners in the coastal environment via letter to inform them that their property was located within the area proposed to be included in the mapped coastal environment overlay.

Landowners were invited to contact the Council if they had any questions or concerns. Landowners organised to meet with Development Planning Unit staff in person or contacted the Development Planning Unit through email or phone calls. This feedback from landowners is summarised below:

Consultations with landowners are summarised in Appendix 6.

2.6.4 Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Advisory Group 2019

A meeting was held with the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw Advisory Group (NPBBAG, “the advisory group”) in November 2019. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the Advisory Group with the policy direction of the proposed coastal environment chapter.

The Advisory Group were provided with background information, which included the work undertaken by Boffa Miskell to define the terrestrial coastal environment, and how this was different to the coastal marine area, or Mean High Water Springs.

The Advisory Group were informed that the Ashley-Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary had been identified as having Outstanding Natural Character and this would have strong protection in the proposed District Plan.

They were also informed of other Natural Character areas that would have protection under the new Plan, which included Jockey-Baker Creek (Very High Natural Character), Tutaepatu Lagoon (High Natural Character), and Te Kohanga Wetlands (High Natural Character).

The Advisory Group were then informed how the District Plan rules would apply, and how this would not apply to the same area as the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016.

2.6.5 Department of Conservation 2019

The Department of Conservation (DOC) were provided with the proposed provisions. The chapter had undergone significant revision since the last consultation with DOC with the addition of multiple new policies.

DOC believed that the chapter was on the right track. However, questions were asked around how “significant adverse effects” would be differentiated from “adverse effects”. DOC also supported not further developing the coastal environment and not putting settlement in ‘at risk’ areas.

DOC asked the District Council to look into Maori reserves and see what other legislations may apply. They also discussed P4 of the NZCPS – and ensuring the provisions were consistent with other neighbouring Councils (Hurunui and Christchurch).

2.6.6 Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust

Meetings were held with Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust where the extent of the terrestrial coastal environment (as mapped by Boffa Miskell) and the Proposed Coastal Environment chapter were discussed.

The Trust questioned why the Pines Beach Wetland had not been identified as a natural character area. The wetland was the focus of extensive restoration efforts and has a number of ecologists identifying remnant indigenous vegetation such as salt marsh in the area.

The Trust also suggested that old ship wrecks and structures north of the estuary from early settlers could be considered for historic heritage.

The natural character assessment of the District’s coastal environment focused on environments that had less modification as opposed to only biodiversity values. While the Pines Beach Wetland may have high biodiversity values, it was not determined to meet the criteria for having high natural character in the Proposed District Plan.

2.6.7 Horticulture New Zealand and Federated Farmers

A joint meeting was held with Horticulture New Zealand, Federated Farmers and the Waimakariri District Council on 3 December 2019.

The stakeholders were provided with an overview of the coastal environment chapter. This included information on the policy direction and the background work undertaken by Boffa Miskell. The stakeholders were provided with information on the areas of high natural character in the coastal environment, and the general structure of the chapter and its integration with others.

2.6.8 Waimakariri Irrigation and Dairy New Zealand

A second joint consultation was held with Waimakariri Irrigation, Dairy New Zealand and the Waimakariri District Council on 4 December 2019.

The stakeholders were provided with an overview of the coastal environment chapter. This included information on the policy direction and the background work undertaken by Boffa Miskell. The stakeholders were provided with information on the areas of high natural character in the coastal environment, and the general structure of the chapter and its integration with others.

Dairy NZ asked what the relationship was between natural character and water quality. Council staff explained that natural character was more about modification, where areas that were subject to less modification rated higher in terms of natural character. It was also worth noting that the Regional Council manages water quality and provisions for water quality would not be located in the District Plan.

2.6.9 Waimakariri District Council – Internal Stakeholders & Staff

As part of the District Plan Review, the District Council held a number of internal meetings that canvassed different units, key staff and elected Councillors. Council staff and elected representatives were provided with draft chapters and able to provide feedback as part of the chapter development process.

The key feedback from these meetings are summarised in table two below:

Table two: Feedback from Internal Stakeholders, Council Staff and Elected Representatives

Feedback	Response
Suggestion that rules for motorised vehicles in the coastal environment would be difficult to enforce and may be more appropriate to leave this to the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016.	The NZCPS requires the District Council to control vehicles and preserve the natural character of the coastal environment. Vehicles can compromise these values and should be controlled to give effect to the NZCPS through the Proposed District Plan. The provisions of the Proposed Chapter (and other chapters that control vehicles) are well integrated with the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw and give effect to the NZCPS.
Suggestion that rules for earthworks on sensitive dune systems may be required.	Achieved through the Proposed Earthworks Chapter.
Suggestion of height limit in the coastal environment for poles and flags.	Achieved through the provisions of the underlying zones.
Map and identify the coastal environment	Achieved.

Question around the management of plantation forestry in the coastal environment and how this worked with the National Environment Standards for Plantation Forestry 2017 (NES PF).	Plantation Forestry is permitted where it was established prior to the enactment of the NES PF. Otherwise managed as a non-complying activity to preserve natural character.
Question around the allowance for buildings of up to 10m ³ which was determined to be quite small for infrastructure.	Now managed through the underlying zone.
Question around how building colour would be addressed.	Managed through matters of discretion.
Suggestion that the District Plan should recognise that the coastal environment is modified, including by plantation forestry.	Achieved through the provisions.
Question as to why Waikuku is in the coastal environment and Pines/Kairaki was out.	The coastal assessment is based on landform and coastal influence. The influence of the coast at Waikuku was determined to be greater than at Pines/Kairaki.

2.7 Iwi Authority Advice

Clause 3(1)(d) of Schedule 1 of the RMA sets out the requirements for local authorities to consult with iwi authorities during the preparation of a proposed plan. Clause 4A requires the District Council to provide a copy of a Proposed District Plan to iwi authorities and have particular regard to any advice received. This section summarises the consultation feedback received from the iwi authority relevant to the coastal environment chapter, and the District Council's consideration of, and response to (as required by Section 32(4A)(b) of the RMA), that feedback.

Consultation has been undertaken with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga regarding a range of District Plan matters. The Rūnanga provided feedback on the draft coastal environment provisions

Specific feedback rated to:

- (a) The general wording of policies, objectives and rules;
- (b) Minor amendments to provisions to better reflect Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga views and better give effect to the Iwi Management Plan 2013;
- (c) Amendments to the identified natural character area schedules (CE-SCHED1 & CE-SCHED2) to include Māori values in relation to natural character; and
- (d) Strengthening of some of the provisions to better ensure that natural character would be protected.

The advice received from Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga has been incorporated into the proposed provisions.

2.8 Reference to Other Relevant Evaluations

This Section 32 topic report should be read in conjunction with the following evaluations:

- (a) Natural character of fresh water bodies - which contains provisions that manage activities in riparian margins, including those that may limit public access;

- (b) Natural open space – which contains provisions for areas zoned as Natural Open Space, which is one of the underlying zones in the Coastal Environment Overlay;
- (c) Public access – which contains provisions that provide the policy direction for providing public access to and along water bodies and the CMA;
- (d) Earthworks – which contains provisions for managing earthworks in the Coastal Environment Overlay and identified natural character areas;
- (e) Natural features and landscapes – which contains provisions for managing subdivision, use or development activities, as some of these areas are located in the Coastal Environment Overlay;
- (f) Natural hazards – which contains provisions for managing the risk from natural hazards, including coastal hazards;
- (g) Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity – which contains provisions for protecting SNAs, which may apply to areas of the coastal environment;
- (h) General residential zone – which contains provisions for areas zoned as General Residential, which is one of the underlying zones in the Coastal Environment Overlay;
- (i) Rural lifestyle zone – which contains provisions for managing activities for areas zoned Rural Lifestyle, which is one of the underlying zones in the Coastal Environment Overlay; and
- (j) Sites of significance to Māori – which contains provisions for managing Sites of Significance to Māori in the Coastal Environment Overlay.

3. STATUTORY AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Resource Management Act 1991

Section 5 of the RMA sets out the purpose of the RMA, which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. In achieving this purpose, authorities need to recognise and provide for matters of national importance identified in Section 6, have particular regard to other matters listed in Section 7, and take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) under Section 8.

Section 6

The Section 6 matters relevant to the coastal environment chapter are:

- (a) the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;*
- (b) the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development;*
- (c) the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;*
- (d) the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers*

- (e) the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga;*
- (f) the management of significant risks from natural hazards; and*

The coastal environment of the District contains areas of high, very high and outstanding natural character. The proposed chapter contains objectives, policies and rules to preserve these natural character attributes by managing inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Under Section 6 of the RMA, this is a matter of national importance which is directly relevant to this chapter.

Section 7

The section 7 matters most relevant to this topic are:

- (a) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values;*
- (b) intrinsic values of ecosystems;*
- (c) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment; and*
- (d) the effects from climate change.*

The work commissioned by the District Council has helped identify areas of the coastal environment that are relatively unmodified with high experiential values. As described above, the identified natural character areas are the least developed areas of the coastal environment and the proposed chapter contains provisions to preserve these areas. Section 7 matters are further addressed through recognising the attributes of natural character outside of natural character areas and ensuring that adverse effects on these attributes are avoided, remedied or mitigated. The proposed chapter contains provisions to preserve these areas, and attributes of natural character

Section 8

Section 8 of the RMA requires the District Council to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). Mana whenua, through iwi authorities have been consulted as part of the district plan review process and the obligation to make informed decisions based on that consultation is noted. Section 74(2A) further requires councils to take into account relevant Iwi Management Plans and their bearing on the resource management issues of the District.

Consultation has been undertaken with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga regarding a range of District Plan matters, and specific feedback was provided with respect to the coastal environment. The nature of this feedback and the response has been outlined in section 2.7 above.

3.2 National Instruments

The following national instruments are relevant to this chapter:

3.2.1 National Planning Standards:

The first set of National Planning Standards came into effect in May 2019 and minor amendments were incorporated in November 2019. The purpose of the National Planning Standards is to improve consistency in plan and policy statement structure, format and content.

The National Planning Standards were introduced as part of the 2017 amendments to the RMA. Their development is enabled by Sections 58B–58J of the RMA. They support implementation of other

national direction such as national policy statements and help people to comply with the procedural principles of the RMA.

In the Proposed District Plan, the coastal environment chapter is part of *Part 2 – District-Wide Matters – General District-Wide Matters*. The proposed coastal environment is consistent with the National Planning Standards.

3.2.2 National Policy Statements

National policy statements (NPS) form part of the RMA’s policy framework and are prepared by Central Government to address nationally significant matters. NPS contain objectives, policies and methods that must be given effect to by decision makers and when drafting plans and policy statements. NPS must also be given regard by consent authorities when making decisions on resource consent applications, alongside other considerations.

3.2.2.1 New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

The NZCPS is a national policy statement under the RMA. The purpose of the NZCPS is to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of the Act in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand. The District Council is required to give effect to the NZCPS through the District Plan. The policies of the NZCPS are wide-ranging, and not all apply to the District Council as some policies apply to the CMA.

The policies that are assessed in this report only relate to those that are relevant to the District Council. The complete list of objectives and policies are available in the NZCPS 2010. The NZCPS guidance has been considered as part of the District Plan Review process.

The relevant policies and how these have been given effect to through the Proposed Coastal Environment chapter are summarised in table three below.

3.2.3 National Environmental Standards

3.2.3.1 National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry 2017

The Resource Management (National Environment Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017 (NES PF) manage the planting of plantation forestry across the District. This permits forestry to be planted across the District subject to a range of permitted activity standards, and a range of situations where afforestation can be managed by way of a resource consent.

The NES PF outlines the following:

“A rule in a plan may be more stringent than these regulations if the rule recognises and provides for the protection of –

- (a) an objective developed to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management:*
- (b) any of policies 11, 13, 15 and 22 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010”.¹*

Policy 13 of the NZCPS relates to the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment. Therefore, more stringent rules for plantation forestry have been applied to areas with outstanding, very high and high natural character values.

¹ Clause 6 NPS PF
Proposed Waimakariri District Plan Section 32 Coastal Environment
TRIM: 191120162066

Table Three: NZCPS Objectives – Assessment against Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter

Summary of relevant NZCPS objectives	Summary of Proposed District Plan Response
<p>Objective 1 Relates to safeguarding the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and sustaining its ecosystems, including the marine and intertidal areas, estuaries, dunes and land.</p>	<p>Proposed District Plan Given effect to through provisions protecting natural character and managing built form in the coastal environment.</p>
<p>Objective 2 Relates to the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and protecting natural features and landscape values.</p>	<p>Proposed District Plan Addressed in Objective 1 of the Proposed Chapter which directly relates to the preserving, maintaining and enhancing the natural character of the coastal environment.</p>
<p>Objective 3 Relates to taking account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and recognising the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and providing for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment.</p>	<p>Proposed District Plan Addressed in Objective 2 of the Proposed Chapter which relates to protecting Ngāi Tūāhuriri values in the coastal environment. Further addressed in the provisions of the Proposed Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Chapter.</p>
<p>Objective 4 Relates to maintaining and enhancing public open space qualities and recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Proposed District Plan Given effect to through the Objective 3 of the Proposed Chapter. Further given effect to through the provisions of the Open Space and Recreation Zone provisions.</p>
<p>Objective 5 Relates to managing coastal hazard risks and taking account of climate change.</p>	<p>Proposed District Plan Not assessed within this Section 32. Coastal hazard provisions are assessed within the Natural Hazards Section 32.</p>
<p>Objective 6 Relates to enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development.</p>	<p>Proposed District Plan Addressed in Objective 4 of the Proposed Chapter which relates to allowing people and communities to provide for their social and economic wellbeing where this does not compromise natural character, public access or cultural values.</p>
<p>Objective 7 Relates to ensuring that management of the coastal environment recognises and provides for New Zealand’s international obligations regarding the coastal environment, including the coastal marine area.</p>	<p>Proposed District Plan Not relevant to the Proposed District Plan. Areas seaward of the CMA are managed by the Regional Council.</p>

Table four: NZCPS Policies - Assessment against Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter

Summary of relevant NZCPS policies	Summary of Proposed District Plan Response
<p><i>Policy 1: Extent and characteristics of the coastal environment</i></p> <p>Relates to recognising the extent and characteristics of the coastal environment and how this varies and that issues may have different effects in different localities. Also outlines key features of the coastal environment which may include the CMA, flora and fauna, coastal processes and habitats, cultural values and items of historic heritage, and physical resources and built infrastructure that have modified the coastal environment.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>The extent of the coastal environment is mapped and includes parts of the CMA, habitats of flora and fauna, areas with high natural character values and areas where coastal processes are dominant.</p>
<p><i>Policy 2: The Treaty of Waitangi, tangata whenua and Māori</i></p> <p>Sets out a range of criteria for taking account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi), and kaitiakitanga in relation to the coastal environment.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Policy four of the Proposed Chapter (see Appendix one) addresses tangata whenua interests with respect to the coastal environment. In addition, provisions of the Proposed Sites of Significance to Māori chapter also give effect to this policy of the NZCPS.</p>
<p><i>Policy 3: Precautionary approach</i></p> <p>Sets out a precautionary approach toward activities in the coast that are unknown but potentially significant.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved as part of the development of the Proposed District Plan. The Proposed Chapter will achieve a precautionary approach through the provisions of the underlying zones. All the activities that may have an adverse effect on natural character have been listed in the Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter. However, the underlying zones contain catch all rules for activities not listed, which gives effect to this policy.</p>

<p><i>Policy 4 – Integration</i></p> <p>Relates to integrated management of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment. This includes coordinated management of activities on the margins of the CMA working with local authorities, iwi and other bodies and agencies with responsibilities and functions under the RMA, or where land or waters are held or managed for conservation purposes.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved as part of the development of the Proposed District Plan. The District Council has consulted the Regional Council through the development of the Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter. This has included the identification of cross boundaries issues and how these are to be managed. In addition, the Regional Council is in the early stages of reviewing the Regional Coastal Environment Plan and integration of this plan with the Proposed District Plan will be ongoing.</p>
<p><i>Policy 5 Land or waters managed or held under other Acts</i></p> <p>Requires the Council to consider effects on land or waters in the coastal environment held or managed under other Acts for conservation or protection purposes.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>The Tūtaepatu Lagoon is held under the Ngāi Tahu (Tūtaepatu Lagoon Vesting) Act 1998. This policy is given effect to through the Proposed Chapter provisions which contain rules to avoid significant adverse effects, and avoid remedy or mitigate all other adverse effects on the Tūtaepatu Lagoon, which is an area of High Natural Character on the Planning Map.</p>
<p><i>Policy 6 – Activities in the Coastal Environment</i></p> <p>Relates to the provision of infrastructure, supply of transport, built development and associated public infrastructure. Also encourages the consolidation of existing urban settlements and the maintenance of the character and extent of existing coastal communities. In addition, development must also be set back from the CMA and other water bodies, and where appropriate, buffers for areas of significant indigenous biodiversity or historic heritage. Additionally, the policy requires the Council to recognise tangata whenua needs such as papakāinga, marae and associated development.</p> <p>Also manages a range of development, infrastructure, and structures in the CMA. However, the CMA is managed by the Regional Council and these are addressed in the Regional Coastal Environment Plan.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>The Proposed Chapter provides for the maintenance, upgrade and development of infrastructure where this has a functional or operational need to be located in the coastal environment, and does not create adverse effects to identified natural character areas. Further provision for infrastructure in the coastal environment is made provided that it does not compromise natural character.</p> <p>The policies of the Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter and the Proposed Subdivision chapter also maintain the character and extent of existing coastal communities.</p>

<p><i>Policy 7 – Strategic Planning</i></p> <p>Relates to the provision of future residential, rural residential, settlement or urban development in the coastal environment in preparing Regional Policy Statements and Plans. This also extends to identify areas of the coastal environment where particular activities and forms of subdivision, use or development may be inappropriate or may be inappropriate without the consideration of effects through a resource consent application.</p> <p>Part two relates to the identification of coastal processes or values that are under threat or at significant risk from adverse cumulative effects in the preparation of regional policy statements and plans.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>The settlement areas have been identified in the Proposed District Plan and these are different from Rural and Open Space Zones. These provide a different level of development compared to the Rural Lifestyle Zone and Open Space Zone. Any change from rural land use to urban would be non-complying under the Rural Lifestyle Zone or require a plan change and be considered on its merits at that stage.</p>
<p><i>Policy 11 – Indigenous Biological Diversity</i></p> <p>Relates to the protection of threatened and rare flora and fauna, ecosystems, habitats in the coastal environment. Outlines direction for avoiding significant adverse effects and, avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects of activities on indigenous vegetation, habitats, indigenous ecosystems, ecological corridors and habitats important to migratory species in the coastal environment.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>This policy is given effect to through the Proposed Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter which contains provisions to protect Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) in the coastal environment. In addition, many of these areas will have additional protection through the Proposed Chapter which manages vegetation clearance, buildings or structures, and plantation forestry which may threaten these values.</p>
<p><i>Policy 13 – Preservation of Natural Character</i></p> <p>Relates to the preservation of natural character and protecting it from inappropriate subdivision use or development. Specific requirements are to avoid all adverse effects on areas of outstanding natural character and to avoid significant adverse effects on all other natural character areas in the coastal environment. Policy 13 also sets out methods to identify (by mapping) natural character areas.</p> <p>Part two identifies the specific criteria of natural character and how these are unique from natural features.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved through the provisions. Natural character areas have been identified (known as identified natural character areas) and mapped on the Planning Map. The attributes of these areas are outlined in the appendices of the Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter. In addition, in areas of Outstanding Natural Character, all the adverse effects from activities must be avoided, and for Very High and High Natural Character areas, all significant adverse effects from activities must be avoided and all other adverse effects from activities must be avoided, remedied, or mitigated.</p>

<p><i>Policy 14 – Restoration of Natural Character</i></p> <p>Relates to the restoration of the natural character of the coastal environment. This includes identifying areas and opportunities for restoration, providing policies, rules and other methods directed toward restoration, and where practicable, imposing or reviewing restoration or rehabilitation conditions on resource consents.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved through the provisions. The Proposed Chapter gives effect to this policy by providing for restoration through policies and rules. However, planting of vegetation is managed to ensure that any planting is endemic (or non-local origin subject to activity standards) and excludes any exotic vegetation.</p>
<p><i>Policy 15 – Natural Features and Natural Landscapes</i></p> <p>Relates to natural features and natural landscapes of the coastal environment and protecting these from inappropriate subdivision, use or development. This includes avoiding adverse effects on outstanding natural features, and avoiding remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects on other natural features and landscapes within the coastal environment.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved through the provisions. The Proposed Natural Features and Landscapes Chapter identifies natural features and landscapes in the Coastal Environment Overlay and contains provisions to manage activities within these areas. Through the provisions the adverse effects from activities on Outstanding Natural Features must be avoided, and adverse effects on activities on Significant Amenity Landscapes must be avoided, remedied or mitigated.</p>
<p><i>Policy 17 – Historic Heritage</i></p> <p>Relates to historic heritage in the coastal environment and protecting this from inappropriate subdivision, use or development.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Items of historic heritage are managed through the Historic Heritage chapter. However, no historic heritage has been identified in the coastal environment.</p>
<p><i>Policy 18 – Public Open Space</i></p> <p>Relates to recognising and providing for public open space within and adjacent to the CMA and ensuring that the location and treatment of public space is compatible with natural character and natural features in the coastal environment.</p> <p>Other components include taking account of the need for future public open space, maintaining and enhancing walking access linkages, considering the likely impact of coastal processes and climate change on public open space, and recognising the important role of esplanade reserves and strips with respect to public open space needs.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved through the provisions. The Natural Open Space Zone that underlies much of the coastal environment consists of undeveloped natural open space that provides for recreation, as well as being valued for its landscape, amenity and cultural values. The provisions in this chapter protect these values and preserve public open space. Furthermore, the provisions protect existing public access to the coastal environment, and enhance public access where this does not create adverse effects.</p>

<p><i>Policy 19 – Walking Access</i></p> <p>Relates to recognising the expectation and need for waking access to the coast that is practical free of charge and safe. Part two relates to the maintenance and enhancement of public walking access to and along the CMA. Part three outlines situations where public access may not be appropriate, and situations where it may be appropriate to restrict public access.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved through the provisions. The Proposed Chapter maintains and enhances public access to the CMA provided this does not create adverse effects on indigenous flora and fauna, dunes, estuaries or water bodies within the coastal environment, sites of cultural significance, public health and safety, or the rights of private property owners where these are significantly compromised.</p>
<p><i>Policy 20 – Vehicle Access</i></p> <p>Relates to controlling vehicles (except for emergency vehicles) on beaches, foreshore, seabed or public land to where this would create adverse effects on environmental values, historic heritage, sites of significance to Māori and adverse effects on other beach users.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved through the provisions of the Proposed Natural Open Space Zone and the Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter. The Proposed Natural Open Space Zone contains rules for managing the use of motor vehicles on beaches. This limits the use of vehicles to boat launching/retrieval, fishing, whitebaiting, mahinga kai gathering, transport of recreation equipment and for holders of mobility cards.</p> <p>This rule also limits motor vehicle use to areas outside dunes, below the high tide mark (unless this is unsafe), outside of flagged lifesaving patrol areas, or if the motor vehicle is a two wheeled motorbike.</p> <p>In addition, the Proposed Coastal Environment Chapter does not provide for motorised vehicles in identified natural character areas (as it's a non-complying activity). However, there is an exception for emergency service vehicles, and for any customary or conservation activities.</p>
<p><i>Policy 22 – Sedimentation</i></p> <p>Relates to sedimentation and assessing and monitoring sedimentation levels and impacts on the coastal environment. This also includes managing subdivision, use or development to insure that it does not result in a significant increase in sedimentation in the CMA and controlling the impacts of vegetation removal on sedimentation, including harvesting plantation forestry.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Achieved through the provisions. The Proposed Earthworks Chapter contains provisions to ensure that sediment does not flow beyond a site. Furthermore, earthworks in identified natural character areas or dunes is non-complying. Vegetation clearance is managed to avoid sedimentation, and plantation is limited to plantation forestry existing prior to the enactment of the NES PF.</p>

<p><i>Policy 24 – Identification of coastal hazards</i></p> <p>Requires the identification of areas in the coastal environment that are potentially affected by coastal hazards and giving priority to the identification of areas at high risk of being affected. The policy also outlines a range of matters for assessing hazard risk over at least 100 years.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>All coastal hazards provisions are assessed within the Natural Hazards Section 32 report.</p>
<p><i>Policy 25: Subdivision, use and development in areas of coastal hazard risk</i></p> <p>Requires management for areas potentially affected by natural hazards and avoiding environmental and economic harm and any redevelopment or change in land use that could increase the risk from coastal hazards. Policy 25 also encourages locating infrastructure outside areas of risk, discourages hard protection structures (and promotes the use of alternatives such as natural defences) and requires Council to consider the potential effects of tsunami and how to avoid or mitigate them.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>All coastal hazards provisions are assessed within the natural Hazards Section 32 report.</p>
<p><i>Policy 26: Natural defences against coastal hazards</i></p> <p>Relates to the protection, restoration or enhancement of natural defences that protect coastal land uses or sites with high biodiversity, cultural, heritage or geological values. Outlines the types of ecosystems that may compromise natural defences.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>All coastal hazards provisions are assessed within the Natural Hazards Section 32 report.</p>
<p><i>Policy 27: Strategies for protecting significant existing development from coastal hazard risk.</i></p> <p>Relates to areas of significant existing development likely to be affected by coastal hazards and canvases the range of options for reducing coastal hazard risk.</p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>All coastal hazards provisions are assessed within the Natural Hazards Section 32 report.</p>
<p><i>Policy 28: Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the NZCPS.</i></p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Not a District Council function.</p>
<p><i>Policy 29: Restricted Coastal Activities.</i></p>	<p><i>Proposed District Plan</i></p> <p>Not a District Council function.</p>

3.3 Regional policy statement and plans

Under Section 75(3)(c) of the RMA, a District Plan must give effect to the relevant or applicable regional policy statement or plan.

3.3.1 Canterbury Regional Policy Statement

Chapter 8 of the Regional Policy Statement contains objectives and policies related to both the landward and seaward side of the CMA.

The RPS policies that are relevant to the District Council are summarised below.

Knowledge of the Coastal Environment

Policy 8.3.1 relates to improving knowledge and understanding of the coastal environment. This requires local authorities to work together to implement coastal strategies through regional plans and district plans. It is noted that the Regional Council is yet to produce a coastal strategy.

Integrated Management

Policy 8.3.2 relates to the co-ordinated management or control of activities within the coastal environment, where these could cross administrative boundaries.

Management of Activities

Policy 8.3.3 relates to a framework for activities and protection of values in the CMA where this avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects within the coastal environment. This policy applies to regional council functions. However, while the CMA is outside the jurisdiction of the District Council, this policy recognises that activities occur within the CMA can adversely affect the wider coastal environment.

Natural Character

Policy 8.3.4 relates to the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment. This is to be achieved through protecting outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use or development, promoting integrated management of activities that affect natural character, protecting and enhancing indigenous ecosystems, avoiding new development adjacent to the CMA, and where appropriate, imposing restoration or rehabilitation conditions on resource consents.

The Proposed Chapter gives effect to the RPS by identifying natural character areas, and then managing subdivision, use or development that may compromise these natural character values.

Public Access

Policy 8.3.5 relates to the maintenance and enhancement of public and Ngāi Tahu access to the coastal environment. The RPS outlines conditions where access may not be appropriate. This includes situations such as protect public health and safety, where this may create significant adverse effects to values of the coastal environment or sites of special value to Ngāi Tahu, where there may be damage to natural buffers to coastal erosion, or where this might create conflicts with the legal rights and lawful activities of private landowners.

The proposed coastal environment chapter is consistent with the policies outlined in the RPS. Public access is limited where natural or cultural values are compromised, or where the rights of private property owners are significantly compromised.

The RPS also contains provisions covering natural hazards in the coastal environment. As outlined earlier, these are covered in the Natural Hazards Section 32.

3.3.2 Regional Coastal Environment Plan

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan aims to promote the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources of the coastal environment in the Canterbury region.

Chapter six of the Regional Coastal Environment Plan (RCEP) sets out objectives, policies and methods that recognise and provide for the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment as a matter of national importance. Chapter 8 of the RCEP contains objectives, policies and methods to deal with activities that take place in the coastal marine area, and occupation of the CMA.

The Regional Coastal Environment Plan contains a range of policies that apply to the CMA. This includes the identification of features such as the Ashley-Rakahuri Estuary which has been identified in the RCEP as an area of Significant Natural Value. The District Council has identified the Ashley-Rakahuri Estuary as an area of Outstanding Natural Character and similar provisions will apply to this area, as well as other areas of the coastal environment with natural character values. This includes the management of structures, planting of vegetation, plantation forestry and roads or vehicle access tracks. In addition, other chapters of the Proposed District Plan will manage earthworks and motorised vehicles, which are key policies from the RCEP.

3.4 Iwi Management Plan

The Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan (2013) is the relevant Iwi Management Plan. The following Iwi Management Plan objectives are relevant to the coastal environment:

1. *There is a diversity and abundance of mahinga kai in coastal areas, the resources are fit for cultural use, and tāngata whenua have unhindered access to them;*
2. *Traditional and contemporary mahinga kai sites and species within the coastal environment, and access to those sites and species are protected and enhanced;*
3. *Mahinga kai have unhindered access between rivers, coastal wetlands, hāpua and the sea;*
4. *The wāhi taonga status of coastal wetlands, hāpua and estuaries is recognised and provided for.*
5. *Coastal cultural landscapes and seascapes are protected from inappropriate use and development.*

Response to the relevant Iwi Management Plan policies is provided in the table below:

Relevant IMP Policies	
Coastal Wetlands, Estuaries and Hāpua	Response
<i>TAN 3.1 To require that coastal wetlands, estuaries and hāpua are recognised and protected as an integral part of the coastal environment, and for their wāhi taonga value of mahinga kai, or food baskets, of Ngāi Tahu.</i>	A number of coastal wetlands, estuaries and hāpua are identified in the proposed chapter as areas of High Natural Character. Furthermore, customary harvesting is provided for in the activity rules.
<i>TAN 3.2 To require that local authorities recognise and address the effects of catchment land use on the cultural health of coastal wetlands, estuaries and hāpua, particularly with regard to sedimentation, nutrification and loss of water.</i>	Catchment effects are addressed through the earthworks and natural character chapters of the proposed district plan.
Coastal and Marine Cultural Heritage	Response
<i>TAN 6.3 To require that marine cultural heritage is recognised and provided for as a RMA s.6 (e) matter in regional coastal environment planning, to protect the relationship between tāngata whenua and the coastal and marine environment.</i>	Achieved through the proposed chapter provisions.
<i>TAN 6.4 To require that Ngāi Tahu cultural and historic heritage sites are protected from:</i> <i>(a) Inappropriate subdivision and development;</i> <i>(b) Inappropriate structures and activities in the coastal marine area;</i> <i>(c) Inappropriate activities in the marine environment, including discharges; and</i> <i>(d) Coastal erosion.</i>	Achieved through the proposed chapter provisions. Further subdivision of the coastal environment is not provided for in the proposed chapter. Inappropriate structures and activities are managed in the proposed chapter.
Coastal Land Use and Development	Response
<i>TAN 7.1 To require that local authorities recognise and provide for the particular interest of Ngāi Tahu in coastal land development activities, including but not limited to:</i> <i>(a) The protection of coastal headlands and skylines;</i> <i>(b) The protection of coastal indigenous biodiversity, including remnant forest and endemic species;</i> <i>(c) The protection of mahinga kai values;</i> <i>(d) The protection of wāhi tapu and wāhi taonga;</i> <i>(e) The protection of views of significant natural features and landmarks;</i> <i>(f) Access to coastal areas for customary use;</i> <i>(g) Ngāi Tahu aspirations for coastal areas, including the establishment of matāitai and taiāpure;</i> <i>(h) The potential for sedimentation and contamination of coastal waters; and</i> <i>(i) The increased pressure on existing water resources and community infrastructure.</i>	Achieved through the proposed chapter provisions.

<p><i>TAN 7.2 To require that local authorities recognise those coastal areas identified by tāngata whenua as Ngāi Tahu cultural landscapes of particular importance, and protect such landscapes from inappropriate coastal land use and development.</i></p>	<p>The coastal areas identified in the MIMP, such as Tūtaepatu and the Ashley River/Rakahuri are identified in the proposed district plan and their importance is recognised in the proposed provisions.</p>
<p><i>TAN 7.3 To require a precautionary approach towards proposed activities whose effects on the coastal environment are uncertain, unknown or poorly understood.</i></p>	<p>Achieved through the proposed chapter provisions and through the development of the Proposed District Plan.</p>

3.5 Any relevant management plans and strategies

The following management plans and strategies are relevant to this matter:

(a) The **Waikuku Beach Reserve Management Plan 2010** – which outlines key management objectives that describe how the Council will manage reserves in accordance with its classifications under the Reserves Act. The key objectives include:

- Preserving (in perpetuity) the Waikuku Beach Reserves as recreational areas for the enjoyment of residents and visitors;
- Making the reserve accessible for public use and supporting further prioritised development;
- Providing and encouraging informal outdoor recreation activities;
- Collaborating with public agencies and communities interested in helping to achieve management objectives; and
- Managing reserves in partnership with Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust to provide positive recreational experiences, whilst maintaining and conserving the cultural and ecological features of reserves.

(b) The **Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016** – which controls activities in the coastal environment. It should be noted that the coastal environment in the context of this bylaw is not the same as the Coastal Environment Overlay in the Proposed District Plan. The Bylaw manages the following:

- Vehicle use (including motorbikes and the use of quad bike) on all of the District's beaches and in the Ashley-Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary;
- Commercial horse training, and recreational horse access, and recreational horse riding on the beach;
- Vandalism of signage or other structures erected by the District Council, the Regional Council, Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust, the Department of Conservation, or the Canterbury Surf Life Saving Association;
- Freedom camping;
- Fires;
- Dogs in the Ashley-Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary and on in beach areas;
- Fenton rights; and
- Land yacht and kite surfing activities.

3.6 Any other relevant legislation or regulations

The following legislation / regulations are relevant to this matter:

(a) The **Reserves Act 1977** provides for the preservation and management of areas throughout New Zealand with recreational values, various environmental values and any other special features;

- (b) The **Wildlife Act 1953** which manages the protection and control of wild animals and birds, the regulation of game shooting seasons, and the constitution and powers of acclimatisation societies;
- (c) The **Conservation Act 1987** which promotes the conservation of New Zealand’s natural and historic resources;
- (d) The **Takutai Moana Act 2011** which provides for the special status of the common marine and coastal area as an area that is incapable of ownership;
- (e) **The Ngāi Tahu (Tūtaepatu Lagoon Vesting) Act 1998** which vests the Tūtaepatu Lagoon in Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and provides for the establishment of the Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust;
- (f) The Regional Council’s **Land and Water Regional Plan** which manages coastal lakes and discharges into the coastal marine area;
- (g) The Regional Council’s **Navigational Safety Bylaw 2016** which manages activities such as recreational boating, water-skiing, swimming, kayaking, including safe practices for harbours and ports, moorings and anchorages on inland water bodies and coastal waters out to twelve nautical miles;
- (h) The Regional Council’s **Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaw 2013** which manages flood protection and flood control works which may include stop banks in the coastal environment;
- (i) Any District Council **Activity Management Plan for Drainage** and the District Council’s **Stormwater Bylaw 2011** which manage storm water discharges from developments and assets.
- (j) The **Greater Christchurch Regeneration Act 2016** which has provisions relating to the red zone land at Kairaki and TC2 land at Pines Beach.

3.7 Any plans of adjacent territorial authorities

The District Council is required to have regard to the extent to which the district plan needs to be consistent with the plans and proposed plans of adjacent territorial authorities under Section 74(2)(c) of the RMA.

As part of the District Plan Review, regard has been had to the following district plans with respect to coastal environment provisions:

- (a) Hurunui District Plan (second generation plan)
- (b) Christchurch District Plan (second generation plan)
- (c) Operative Selwyn District Plan (first generation plan)
- (d) Proposed Selwyn District Plan (proposed second generation plan)

3.7.1 Hurunui District Plan

The Hurunui District Plan (HDP) contains a mapped “Coastal Environment Area” in the Planning Maps which runs along the district boundary and extends further inland where coastal processes are more

dominant. The HDP also maps areas of Outstanding Natural Character and Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the coastal environment.

The objectives and policies seek identify and protect the natural character of the coast, protect outstanding natural features and landscapes, recognise the significance of the coastal environment to Ngāi Tahu, provide for public access (where this does not create adverse effects) and provide for existing activities and limited new activities where appropriate.

The HDP contains a range of rules to manage forestry, buildings and structures located within natural character areas or outstanding natural features and landscapes, motorised activities, utility buildings and structures and planting of shelterbelts.

3.7.2 Christchurch District Plan

The Christchurch District Plan contains provisions for managing the coastal environment in the Natural and Cultural Heritage Chapter. The Christchurch District Plan maps areas of outstanding natural character, high natural character and other areas with natural character (that did not meet the criteria for high or outstanding) in the coastal environment.

The Christchurch Plan manages activities such as buildings, residential units, farm buildings, recreation facilities and park management facility buildings, tramping huts, buildings for public amenities, additions to existing buildings, access tracks, new roads, plantation forestry and quarrying activities.

A three tier approach is used for managing activities within each of the natural character areas with activities occurring within areas of natural character (not high or outstanding) having a lower activity status than those occurring in high or outstanding natural character areas. Other effects from activities are managed through matters of discretion.

3.7.3 Proposed Selwyn District Plan

The Proposed Selwyn District Plan (PSDP) contains a combined Coastal Environment Overlay and Coastal Natural Character layer which includes areas of high, very high and outstanding natural character.

The objectives and policies seek to preserve natural character in the coastal environment, protect Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) in the coastal environment, avoid vegetation clearance and maintain Ngāi Tahu values.

The PSDP contains rules to manage plantation forestry (including horticultural plantings, woodlots and shelterbelts), buildings and structures, mineral extraction and earthworks. A range of built form standards also specify maximum height limits, maximum footprints, building coverage and appearance.

4. KEY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The resource management issues that need to be addressed in relation to the coastal environment are:

4.1 Issue 1: The potential loss or degradation of the natural character of the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use or development.

Natural character in the coastal environment is the product of the dynamic beach, dune and estuarine processes that arise from the natural movement of biota, sediment, sand, water and air. It is also shaped by elements such as biodiversity, productivity and substrate composition. In the context of the

District's coastal environment, environments with the greatest natural character values are those with comparatively low levels of human modification. Areas with high natural character are composed of natural elements, natural patterns and underpinned by natural processes. Inappropriate subdivision, use or development can compromise natural character and must be managed to ensure that these values are preserved.

4.2 Issue 2: The potential loss or reduction in opportunities for public access to, and along, the landward edge of the CMA or any adverse effects created as a result of public access.

Public access is a matter of national importance under the RMA and a key matter contained within the NZCPS 2010. Subdivision, use or development that is inappropriately located may compromise new or existing public access to the CMA. However, providing for public access may also result in adverse effects on biodiversity, sensitive ecosystems or habitats, sites of cultural significance to Māori, public health and safety, or the rights of private property owners. Provisions for public access are also located within the public access chapter. The policy direction for the proposed coastal environment chapter is consistent with these.

4.3 Issue 3: People and communities need to be able to provide for their social, cultural and economic wellbeing

The coastal environment contains areas zoned as General Residential, Rural Lifestyle and Natural Open Space and is also highly valued for recreation and amenity. This means that a broad range of activities occur within the coastal environment. Some existing activities or new activities may compromise natural values, and may not be compatible with preserving the natural character values of the coast. These include plantation forestry, buildings and structures and the introduction of exotic flora.

However, it is also important to recognize the contribution of these activities to the economic and social wellbeing of the District. The Proposed Chapter provides for most activities that would be expected within these zones where these are consistent with preserving the natural character values of the coast. Activities such as plantation forestry are provided for, but are limited to plantation forestry that was existing prior to the enactment of the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES PF).

5. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND METHODS

The proposed provisions are set out in the coastal environment chapter of the proposed District Plan. **These provisions should be referred to in conjunction with this evaluation report.** The proposed provisions are summarised below:

5.1 Strategic Direction

In the proposed District Plan, Strategic Direction SD-O1 relates to the natural environment seeking a gain in the quality and quantity of indigenous ecosystems, habitat and indigenous biodiversity, that important natural features, landscapes, natural areas and natural character areas are identified and their values maintained, that people have access to a network of natural areas for open space and recreation, conservation and education, and there is an integrated approach to subdivision and land use activities that can adversely affect natural and cultural values of coastal areas.

The proposed coastal environment chapter is consistent with the strategic objective for the natural environment.

5.2 Zone / District-wide subject

The *Coastal Environment* Chapter is part of *Part 2 – District Wide Matters – General District-Wide Matters*.

5.3 Proposed Objectives and Policies

The Proposed Objectives and Policies are summarised in **Appendix One** of this report.

In summary, the objectives, policies and methods in the chapter are similar to the Operative Chapter to the extent that they seek to preserve, and where possible enhance natural character, enable public access to and along the landward side of the CMA.

Furthermore, the chapter also recognises and protects Ngāi Tūāhuriri cultural values and better enables people and communities to provide for their economic and social wellbeing where this is consistent with preserving natural character.

5.4 Proposed Methods

The Proposed Methods are summarised in **Appendix One** of this report.

In summary, a range of permitted, restricted discretionary and non-complying activities are provided for in the proposed provisions. Most permitted activities are subject to activity standards. The rules in the proposed chapter are consistent with the underlying zones and generally look to protect natural character by managing the activities that could compromise natural character.

The definitions used in the proposed chapter are listed below:

- Coastal environment
- Coastal Marine Area (CMA)
- Mahinga kai
- Indigenous vegetation
- Indigenous vegetation clearance
- Indigenous biodiversity
- Identified natural character area
- Public amenities
- Building
- Structure
- Plantation forestry
- Mana whenua
- Conservation activities

6. SCALE AND SIGNIFICANCE EVALUATION

Section 32 (1)(c) of the RMA requires that a Section 32 report contain a level of detail that corresponds with the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the proposed objectives, policies and methods.

The level of detail undertaken for the subsequent evaluation of the proposed objectives, policies and methods has been determined by this scale and significance assessment.

Further, the analysis has to be documented to assist stakeholders and decision-makers understand the rationale for the proposed objectives, policies and methods under consideration.

In making this assessment regard has been had to a range of scale and significance factors, including whether the provisions:

- (a) Are of regional or district wide significance;

- (b) Involve a matter of national importance in terms of Section 6 of the RMA;

The proposed provisions will address matters outlined in Section 6 of the Act. This relates to Section 6(a) which highlights the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the CMA), wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins as a matter of national importance.

- (c) Involve another matter under Section 7 of the RMA;

The proposed provisions will address some of the matters outlined in Section 7 of the Act. This includes the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources, the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values, intrinsic values of ecosystems, and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.

- (d) Raise any principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) under Section 8 of the RMA;

Consultation has been undertaken with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga as part of the District Plan review process. Feedback and comments from Te Rūnanga are summarised in Section 2.7. The provisions of the Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan 2013 have been considered and these are analysed in Section 3.4 above.

- (e) Address an existing or new resource management issue;

The proposed provisions address new and existing resource management issues that are outlined in the NZCPS and will better preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and give effect to the NZCPS.

- (f) Adversely affect people's health and safety;

The proposed provisions are unlikely to affect the health and safety of people or communities.

- (g) Adversely affect those with particular interests including Māori;

The coastal environment overlay includes areas which are of significance to Māori. The proposed provisions are unlikely to conflict with mana whenua values and are consistent with the Sites of Significance to Māori chapter.

- (h) Adversely affect a large number of people;

The coastal environment contains a range of underlying zones such as the General Residential Zone, Rural Lifestyle Zone, Natural Open Space Zone and a small area of the Pines-Kairaki Special Purpose Zone. However, the number of landowners that are located within the overlay is low. Most of the land within the overlay is owned by Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust or in public ownership. The remaining areas include a small area of Waikuku zoned General Residential Zone and a small area of the Pines-Kairaki Special Purpose Zone. The proposed provisions provide for most activities that are expected within these zones provided they do not conflict with natural character values and therefore do not:

- (i) Result in a significant change to the character and amenity of local communities;
- (j) Result in a significance change to development opportunities or land use options;
- (k) Limit options for future generations to remedy effects;

The proposed provisions will maintain the character and amenity of local communities and will not result in a significant change to development opportunities or land use options. It is highly unlikely that the proposed provisions will limit options for future generations to remedy effects.

- (l) Whether the effects have been considered implicitly or explicitly by higher order documents;

The NZCPS outlines the objectives and policies that the coastal environment chapter must give effect to. In addition, the National Planning Standards require all provisions relating to the coastal environment to be located within the coastal environment chapter. The proposed provisions are consistent with both higher order documents.

- (m) Include regulations or other interventions that will impose significant costs on individuals or communities.

The Coastal Environment Overlay is now mapped which is a new approach compared to the Operative District Plan which did not map coastal environment. Rules associated with the overlay will apply to land within it.

Policies and methods have been evaluated as a package, as together they address a particular issue and seek to meet a specific objective.

6.1 Evaluation of Scale and Significance

	Low	Medium	High
Degree of change from the Operative Plan		✓	
The content of the provisions do not represent a high degree of change from the Operative District Plan. However, the mapping of the overlay itself will indicate the areas where the provisions of the Proposed Chapter will apply. This means that more properties could be subject to the rules in the Proposed Chapter compared with the Operative District Plan. Additionally, the Operative Coastal Environment Chapter contained two rules (related to vehicle access points) whereas the Proposed Chapter contains rules related to buildings and structures, vehicles, construction of new roads, planting and removal of vegetation and public amenities.			
Effects on matters of national importance and other Part 2 matters		✓	
The proposed chapter directly addresses resource management issues that will better achieve the relevant parts of Part 2 of the RMA.			
Scale of effects geographically (local, district wide, regional, national)	✓		
The proposed provisions will apply to the extent of the coastal environment overlay. The overlay extends from the south of Kairaki to north of the Ashley-Rakahuri Estuary, and up to one kilometre inland in some areas. Given the relatively limited area covered by the overlay, it is considered low.			
Scale of effects on people (how many will be affected – single landowners, multiple landowners, neighbourhoods, the public generally, future generations?)	✓		
The proposed provisions are likely to affect multiple landowners compared to the Operative District Plan as the Operative Plan did not have a definitive boundary for determining what was inside the coastal environment. However, the actual number of landowners within the overlay is likely to be low.			
Scale of effects on those with specific interests, e.g., Mana Whenua, industry groups	✓		
The coast is very significant for Mana Whenua and many interest groups. Most of the land within the overlay is owned by Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust and contains some areas of significance to Māori. However, the provisions within the chapter are likely to be consistent with the goals and ambitions of the trust and will not adversely affect mana whenua values as these are recognised in the proposed provisions.			
Degree of policy risk – does it involve effects that have been considered implicitly or explicitly by higher order documents? Does it involve effects addressed by other standards/commonly accepted best practice? Is it consistent, inconsistent or contrary to those?	✓		

The proposed provisions give effect to the NZCPS 2010 which outlines resource management issues in the coastal environment. These are consistent with the NZCPS and the approaches adopted by other district plans.			
Likelihood of increased costs or restrictions on individuals, communities or businesses	✓		
There will be some increased restrictions of activities that could compromise natural character such as plantation forestry, the use of motor vehicles, structures or buildings located in close proximity (or within) identified natural character areas or activities such as vegetation clearance. This will result in some increased costs and restrictions for a small number of landowners.			

6.2 Summary – Evaluation of Scale and Significance

Overall the evaluation of the scale and significance of the changes from the Proposed District Plan compared to the Operative District Plan is considered **low to medium**. Given this, the level of detail in this report corresponds with the scale and significance of the environmental, economic and cultural effects anticipated from implementation of the proposed provisions.

7. EVALUATION OF PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

Section 32(1)(a) of the RMA requires the District Council to evaluate the extent to which the objectives are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the RMA. The level of detail undertaken for the evaluation of the proposed objectives has been determined by the preceding scale and significance assessment.

Below is an evaluation of the proposed objectives that have been identified as the most appropriate to address the resource management issue(s) and achieve the purpose of the RMA, against those objectives in the operative plan.

7.1 Evaluation of Proposed Objectives

Section 32(1)(a) of the RMA requires the District Council to evaluate the extent to which the objectives are the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act. The level of detail undertaken for the evaluation of the proposed objectives has been determined by the preceding scale and significance assessment.

Below is an evaluation of the proposed objectives that have been identified as the most appropriate to address the resource management issue(s) and achieve the purpose of the RMA, against the relevant objectives in the operative District Plan.

Existing Objective/s (status quo)	Appropriateness to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991
<p>Objective 7.1.1 The protection and enhancement of the natural character of the coastal environment.</p> <p>Objective 7.2.1 The maintenance and enhancement of existing legal public access to and along the landward edge of the Coastal Marine Area unless conservation values, cultural values, the rights of private property owners or public safety are significantly compromised.</p> <p>Objective 7.3.1 A standard of water quality in the coastal environment that maintains natural water quality, protects aquatic ecosystems, and natural character, and provides recreational, cultural, social and economic benefits for future generations.</p>	<p>Relevance: Objective 7.1.1 and Objective 7.2.1 from the Operative District Plan give effect to the NZCPS and address some of the resource management issues that are outlined in this report (preserving natural character and enhancing public access). These objectives have largely been carried over to the Proposed District Plan with only minor changes. However, Objective 7.3.1 of the Operative Chapter is related to coastal water quality, which is a Regional Council function, and has not been carried over to the Proposed Chapter.</p> <p>While some of the Operative District Plan objectives give effect to the NZCPS, the objectives do not adequately allow people or communities to provide for their social, cultural or economic wellbeing. The coastal environment contains areas for living, working, recreation and is significant for Māori and it is important that these are recognised and reflected in the objectives, provided these do not conflict with natural character values.</p> <p>Reasonableness: The extent of the regulatory impact that is imposed on individuals, businesses and the wider community from the Operative District Plan objectives is low. This is partly due to the coastal environment not being defined, and also due to the small number of landowners within the coastal environment.</p> <p>Achievability: The Operative District Plan objectives for the coastal environment have previously had a low level of achievability due to the coastal environment not being mapped or defined. Furthermore, the objective related to water quality is a Regional Council function under the RMA and has had a low level of achievability. However, the remaining objectives related to natural character and public access are appropriate for addressing key resource management issues and for achieving the purpose of the Act.</p>

Proposed Objectives	Appropriateness to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991
<p><i>The objectives of the Proposed Chapter are contained in Appendix One of this report.</i></p>	<p>Relevance: Objective 1 of the Proposed Coastal Environment chapter is appropriate and sufficiently addresses the key resource management issues outlined in this report, which is to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment. Objective 2 of the Proposed Chapter better recognises the coastal environment as a place of significance to Ngāi Tūāhuriri mana whenua. This objective is also consistent with the direction set out in the Sites of Significance to Māori chapter. Objective 3 of the Proposed Chapter better recognises the activities in the coastal environment that support people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing whilst ensuring that natural character values are maintained.</p> <p>The proposed objectives are considered to be more appropriate in achieving the purpose of the Act.</p> <p>Reasonableness: The extent of the regulatory impact imposed on individuals, businesses and the wider community from the proposed objectives is likely to be higher than the Operative District Plan objectives. However, this is mostly due to the coastal environment being defined by an overlay. However, in considering the objectives along, these are unlikely to impose substantially more regulation on individuals, businesses or the wider community, as they mostly provide for the continuation of economic activities (with the exception of new plantation forestry) where this is consistent with maintaining natural character.</p> <p>Furthermore, the chapter recognises activities that may occur in the underlying zones and only regulates these where they may compromise natural character values.</p> <p>Achievability: The proposed objectives for the coastal environment are likely to have a high level of achievability and will remove duplication with regional council functions and requirements.</p>

7.2 Summary - Evaluation of Proposed Objectives

The proposed objectives are similar to the operative objectives with some changes. This includes minor wording and changes, addition of new objectives and the removal of the operative objective related to water quality.

The scope of the proposed objectives has been widened to reflect the diverse range of living, working and recreational activities that occur in the coastal environment, where these do not conflict with natural character values. The proposed objectives will best achieve the purpose of the RMA as they will preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and allow people and communities to provide for their social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

8. EVALUATION OF PROPOSED POLICIES AND METHODS

Section 32 (1)(b) of the RMA requires an evaluation of whether the proposed policies and methods are the most appropriate way to achieve the proposed objectives by identifying other reasonably practicable options, assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed policies and methods in achieving the objectives, and summarising the reasons for deciding on the proposed policies and methods.

The level of detail undertaken for the evaluation of the proposed policies and methods has been determined by the preceding scale and significance assessment.

The assessment must identify and assess the benefits and costs of environmental, economic, social and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the proposed policies and methods, including opportunities for economic growth and employment.

The assessment must, if practicable, quantify the benefits and costs and assess the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information available about the subject matter.

Policies and methods have been evaluated as a package, as together they address a particular issue and seek to meet a specific objective.

8.1 Reasonably practicable options for provisions

In considering reasonably practicable options for achieving the objectives of the proposed Waimakariri District Plan and the relevant higher order directions, the following options for policies and rules / rules have been identified. Taking into account the environmental, economic, social and cultural effects, the options identified were assessed in terms of their benefits, and costs. Based on that, the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the alternative options was assessed.

Option A – Proposed Approach involving the mapping of the coastal environment and a set of provisions associated with the management of activities that compromise the natural character and public access. The management of natural hazards that occur in the coastal environment are contained in the Natural Hazards Chapter.

Option B – Status quo where the provisions of the Operative District Plan are retained.

Option C – Rely on the other provisions in the Proposed District Plan to manage activities within the coastal environment.

8.2 Evaluation of Proposed Policies and Methods

An evaluation of the proposed policies and methods is summarised in the following table.

Evaluation of Proposed Policies and Methods

Policy and method options to achieve the District Plan objectives relating to coastal environment.	Benefits environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Costs environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Efficiency and Effectiveness	Risk of acting / not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions
<p>Option A: Proposed Approach</p> <p>(a) A mapped coastal environment that outlines where the provisions related to the coastal environment apply.</p> <p>(b) Policies and rules to manage activities that could potentially compromise natural character attributes and public access are managed and provisions give effect to the NZCPS 2010.</p>	<p>Environmental:</p> <p>(a) The provisions of the chapter will provide clear direction in terms of the outcomes expected and will lead to the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, which is recognised under Section 6(a) as a matter of national importance;</p> <p>(b) The mapping of the coastal environment identifies the areas where the provisions apply and enable clearer management of activities that could compromise natural character;</p> <p>(c) The provisions are well integrated with other chapters that protect environmental or scenic values.</p> <p>Economic:</p>	<p>Environmental:</p> <p>(a) There may be some potential for minor adverse effects from activities (such as infrastructure) that need to be located in the coastal environment. However, any effects from these activities must be avoided, remedied or mitigated.</p> <p>Economic:</p>	<p>(a) The approach achieves the proposed objectives by identifying the areas where the provisions will apply, including the areas with particularly high values, and managing activities that could create adverse effects;</p> <p>(b) The approach provides greater certainty for plan users and decision makers through activities-based provisions;</p> <p>(c) The approach avoids duplication with other controls in the coastal environment such as bylaws and Regional Council Plans, or is well integrated where this is necessary;</p> <p>(d) The approach gives effect to the NZCPS; and</p> <p>(e) It has therefore been determined that the benefits of this approach outweigh the costs.</p>	<p>(a) There is sufficient information available to act on the proposed provisions;</p> <p>(b) The risk of not acting would result in further degradation of the natural character of the coastal environment;</p> <p>(c) The risk of not acting would result in an unmapped and undefined coastal environment that does not provide any certainty for decision makers and may not manage the range of activities that occur in the coastal environment;</p> <p>(d) The risk of this approach is a higher level of regulation for activities in the coastal environment, and this includes an area of plantation forestry owned and managed by the Council; and</p> <p>(e) The risk of not acting would result in the Proposed District Plan not giving effect to relevant higher</p>

Policy and method options to achieve the District Plan objectives relating to coastal environment.	Benefits environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Costs environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Efficiency and Effectiveness	Risk of acting / not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions
	<p>(a) The provisions provide for some existing economic activities such as farming and plantation forestry (subject to activity standards) and other activities where these do not create adverse effects on natural character values.</p>	<p>(a) Potential for a limited range of economic activities if these compromise natural character values. However, this is mostly limited to buildings, structures or plantation forestry.</p>		<p>order documents and the Council failing to meet its statutory obligations under the RMA.</p>
<p>Social:</p> <p>(a) The provisions better reflect community aspirations related to protecting highly valued environments located in the coastal environment;</p> <p>(b) Public access to the CMA is maintained, which is recognised as a matter of national importance under Section 6(d).</p>	<p>Social:</p> <p>(a) No direct or indirect social costs have been identified through this approach. There are unlikely to be any social costs from the proposed approach.</p>			
<p>Cultural:</p> <p>(a) The provisions better reflect Ngāi Tūāhuriri cultural values and better reflect the objectives and policies of the Iwi Management Plan 2013;</p> <p>(b) The provisions are well integrated with the Sites of Significance to Māori chapter; and</p>	<p>Cultural:</p> <p>(a) No direct or indirect cultural costs have been identified. There are unlikely to be any cultural costs from the proposed approach.</p>			

Policy and method options to achieve the District Plan objectives relating to coastal environment.	Benefits environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Costs environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Efficiency and Effectiveness	Risk of acting / not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions
	(c) The provisions are likely to support better environmental outcomes which could have positive affects for cultural activities such as mahinga kai.			

Opportunities for economic growth and employment

The proposed approach is unlikely to result in any increased economic growth or employment. These are more likely to emerge from the underlying zones such as the Rural Lifestyle Zone or the Natural Open Space Zone. The relevant Section 32 assessment outlines the potential economic opportunities for these zones.

Quantification

Section 32(2)(b) requires that if practicable the benefits and costs of a proposal are quantified. Given the assessment of the scale and significance of the proposed changes above it is considered that quantifying costs and benefits would add significant time and cost to the s32 evaluation processes. The evaluation in this report identifies where there may be additional cost(s), however the exact quantification of the benefits and costs discussed was not considered necessary, beneficial or practicable.

Options less appropriate to achieve the objective

Option B: Status Quo	Benefits environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Costs environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Efficiency and Effectiveness	Risk of acting / not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions
<p>Maintain the Operative District Plan provisions (Status Quo)</p> <p>(a) Provisions from the Operative District Plan are carried over with no amendments;</p>	<p>Environmental:</p> <p>(a) Chapter contains some relevant policies for protecting natural character and public access to the CMA, partially giving effect to the NZCPS 2010;</p>	<p>Environmental:</p> <p>(a) A lack of rules in the operative chapter may result in worse environmental outcomes through activities such as plantation forestry and rural activities not being adequately managed;</p>	<p>(a) There are a limited number of rules in the operative chapter all of which have become outdated;</p> <p>(b) The rules in the operative chapter are not consistent with an activities based plan which is inconsistent with the National Planning Standards;</p>	<p>(a) The risk of this approach is that there may be further degradation of the coastal environment, which may be potentially irrevocable, due to the provisions not adequately addressing environmental issues;</p>

(b) The coastal environment is not mapped or defined;		<p>(b) The operative chapter would poorly integrate with other revised chapters of the Proposed District Plan which could lead to adverse environmental outcomes;</p> <p>(c) An undefined or unmapped coastal environment could lead to less activities being managed as it would be difficult to determine the extent of the coastal environment in a resource consent application;</p> <p>(d) Areas of high natural character in the coastal environment are unmapped and would have much less protection.</p>	<p>(c) The policies and methods would not give effect to the NZCPS;</p> <p>(d) The operative plan contains duplication as some objectives and policies are related to coastal water quality are Regional Council functions; and</p> <p>(e) It is therefore determined that the costs of this approach outweigh the benefits.</p>	(b) The risk of this approach is that the coastal environment, including areas with high natural character values would not be mapped or defined;
	Economic: (a) Activities in the coastal environment that effect natural character such as plantation forestry or rural activities are able to continue with less regulation.	Economic: (a) No indirect or direct economic costs identified.		
	Social: (a) Community and plan users are more familiar with provisions of the chapter.	Social: (a) Environments that are highly valued by the community are not managed and community aspirations not met.		
	Cultural: (a) A limited range of cultural benefits have been identified.	Cultural: (a) The provisions would not adequately recognise		

		feedback from MKT or the provisions of the Iwi Management Plan.		
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Opportunities for economic growth and employment

Maintaining the Operative District Plan provisions is unlikely to result in any increased economic growth or employment. However, existing economic activities such as plantation forestry and rural activities in the coastal environment would be less regulated which would maintain the economic viability of these activities. Employment opportunities related to conservation and research may be enhanced.

Option C – Rely on other Provisions in the Proposed District Plan	Benefits environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Costs environmental, economic, social and cultural effects anticipated,	Efficiency and Effectiveness	Risk of acting / not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the provisions
(a) Rely on the underlying zones or district-wide provisions to manage activities in the coastal environment; (b) Do not have a mapped or defined coastal environment.	<p>Environmental: (a) No direct or indirect environmental benefits have been identified with this approach.</p> <p>Economic: (a) A less regulated coastal environment which would provide for a wider range of economic activities, depending on the provisions of the underlying zone.</p> <p>Social: (a) No direct or indirect social benefits have been identified through this approach.</p>	<p>Environmental: (a) The natural character of the coastal environment may be compromised if underlying zones do not adequately protect natural character; (b) An unmapped and undefined coastal environment would make it difficult to assess what activities were inside the coastal environment.</p> <p>Economic: (a) No direct or indirect economic costs have been identified with this approach.</p> <p>Social: (a) Environments that are highly valued by the community would not receive adequate</p>	(a) The costs of this approach outweigh the benefits; (b) This approach would not give effect to the National Planning Standards; (c) This approach would not provide clarity for decision makers or plan users as the provisions would be located throughout the plan, including across multiple zones; (d) This approach would not be consistent with the approaches adopted by other second generation plans or notified plans; (e) This approach may integrate well with other chapters of the Proposed District Plan but this is	(a) The risk of this approach is that the District Plan would not give effect to the NZCPS and Council would therefore not be meeting its statutory obligations under the RMA; (b) The risk of this approach is that there may be further degradation of the natural character of the coastal environment; and (c) The risk of this approach is that it would not be considering the relevant provisions of the Iwi Management Plan 2013 or the feedback received from Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri and could therefore lead to worse cultural outcomes.

		protection and therefore would not meet community aspirations.	dependent on the provisions of the underlying zones.
	Cultural: (a) No direct or indirect cultural benefits have been identified through this approach.	Cultural: (a) The provisions would not adequately recognise feedback from MKT or the relevant provisions from the Iwi Management Plan 2013; and (b) This approach could lead to worse environmental outcomes which may adversely affect cultural activities such as mahinga kai.	

Opportunities for economic growth and employment

This approach is not likely to result in any further economic growth or employment opportunities. However, existing economic activities such as plantation forestry and rural activities in the coastal environment may be less regulated which would maintain the economic viability of these activities.

8.3 Summary - Evaluation of Proposed Policies and Methods

The proposed policies and methods (Option A) are the most appropriate to achieve the objectives relating to the coastal environment. Option A would see the implementation of a revised set of provisions and would identify the extent of the terrestrial coastal environment that is to be managed by the District Council. The new format is consistent with higher order documents such as the National Planning Standards and the NZCPS. As Option A is activities-based, it contains more guidance for plan users and decision makers as to the types of activities that are expected within the coastal environment.

Option A also gives effect to the most recent NZCPS which requires (amongst a range of other policies) the coastal environment to be mapped and the natural character to be protected and enhanced. The protection of the natural character of the coastal environment is a matter of national importance under Section 6(a) and Option A is the most effective option to achieve this.

Option A is also the most consistent with the Iwi Management Plan and better reflects the feedback received from Ngāi Tūāhuriri mana whenua. The protection of natural character may also result in better environmental outcomes which could have positive effects for cultural activities such as mahinga kai.

Option B would maintain the Operative District Plan provisions for the coastal environment. This would not involve mapping or defining the coastal environment and maintaining the effects-based rules. Option B is not appropriate for protecting the natural character of the coastal environment due to a lack of rules and a lack of clarity as to what constitutes the coastal environment. Option B is not consistent with higher order documents such as the NZCPS and the National Planning Standards.

Option B also does not adequately reflect the cultural values of mana whenua, and does not give effect to the objectives and policies of the Iwi Management Plan 2013. It is therefore considered that Option B is not appropriate for achieving the objectives for the coastal environment.

Option C would involve relying on the underlying zones to manage the coastal environment, and would not have a specific coastal environment chapter.

This approach would be inconsistent with the National Planning Standards, the NZCPS, and the approaches adopted by most other second generation district plans. In addition, the primary purpose of the underlying zones is to provide for the activities that are expected within those zones. This approach could result in poor environmental outcomes if the underlying zones did not adequately protect the natural character of the coastal environment. It is therefore considered that this approach is the least appropriate for achieving the objectives.

9. SUMMARY

This evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with Section 32 of the RMA in order to identify the need, benefits, and costs and the appropriateness of the proposed approach having regard to its effectiveness and efficiency relative to other means in achieving the purpose of the RMA. The evaluation demonstrates that the proposed approach is the most appropriate option as:

- (a) The proposed approach aligns with the most recent edition of the National Planning Standards and the NZCPS;
- (b) The proposed approach better reflects cultural values and recognises the policies of the Iwi Management Plan 2013;

- (c) The proposed approach identifies the extent of the coastal environment and where the provisions apply. This will ensure that activities that fall within these areas are managed and do not compromise the natural character of the coastal environment;
- (d) The proposed approach contains a revised set of provisions that are activities-based which will lead to the better management of activities that will compromise natural character; and
- (e) The proposed approach allows communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, provided this does not compromise natural character values.

Overall, it is determined that the proposed provisions are the most appropriate for achieving the purpose of the RMA given the range of benefits that can be achieved through the implementation of the provisions. Furthermore, the proposed provisions reflect best practice and give effect to higher order documents.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Objectives, Policies and Methods

Please note that all provisions related to coastal hazard provisions are subject to a separate Section 32 assessment and are not included below.

Objectives
<p>CE-O1 Natural character values <i>The natural character attributes of the coastal environment of the District are preserved, maintained, and enhanced.</i></p> <p>CE-O2 Ngāi Tūāhuriri values <i>The relationship of Ngāi Tūāhuriri and their culture and traditions, with their ancestral lands, water, significant areas and taonga in the coastal environment is recognised and values associated with this are protected.</i></p> <p>CE-O3 Public Access <i>Public access to and along the landward edge of the CMA is maintained and enhanced where this does not create adverse effects.</i></p> <p>CE-O4 Activities in the Coastal Environment <i>People and communities are able to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being, recognising that the protection of natural character and indigenous biodiversity, public access or cultural values does not preclude subdivision, use or development, where this does not compromise these values.</i></p>
Policies
<p>CE-P1 Recognising natural character <i>Recognise that the following attributes contribute to the natural character of the coastal environment:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. natural elements, processes and patterns;</i><i>2. biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects;</i><i>3. natural landforms such as dunes, wetlands, estuaries and freshwater springs;</i><i>4. the natural movement of water and sediment;</i><i>5. the natural darkness of the night sky;</i><i>6. places or areas that are wild or scenic;</i><i>7. a range of natural character from pristine to modified; and</i><i>8. the experience of the above elements, including the sound and smell of the sea, including Ngāi Tūāhuriri associations with these attributes.</i>
<p>CE-P2 Preservation of natural character <i>Recognise the natural character values identified in SCHEDULE CE1 and SCHEDULE CE2 and other areas of the coastal environment, and protect them by:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. avoiding all adverse effects from subdivision, use or development within areas of ONC, and areas adjoining the CMA;</i><i>2. avoiding significant adverse effects, including cumulative effects, from subdivision, use or development within areas of HNC, or VHNC;</i><i>3. avoiding, remedying or mitigating any other adverse effects on natural character attributes in the coastal environment;</i><i>4. avoiding the clearance of indigenous vegetation, and the planting of non-indigenous vegetation within identified coastal natural character areas;</i><i>5. avoiding activities that damage the stability of coastal dune systems; and</i><i>6. maintaining indigenous biodiversity, including remnant vegetation and habitats of indigenous species.</i>

CE-P3 Restoration of natural character

Enable opportunities to restore and rehabilitate natural character within the coastal environment, such as through the removal of plant and animal pests, supporting initiatives for regeneration of indigenous vegetation and habitats, and providing for the natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation. .

CE-P4 Ngāi Tūāhuriri cultural values

Protect and maintain the values of Ngāi Tūāhuriri with respect to the coastal environment by:

1. recognising and providing for the relationship between mana whenua and sites and areas of the coastal environment with cultural significance;
2. providing for access to the CMA for mahinga kai and other customary activities;
3. providing opportunities for Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga involvement in decision-making in relation to the coastal environment;
4. engaging with Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga where activities in the coastal environment have the potential to adversely affect identified sites and areas of significance to Māori, including any silent file area; and
5. considering the incorporation of mātauranga Māori in the design, development, or operation of activities in the coastal environment, where this will enhance recognition of the cultural and traditional relationship of mana whenua to the coastal environment.

CE-P5 Public access to the CMA

Maintain existing and provide for new public access where this does not create adverse effects on:

1. indigenous flora and fauna;
2. dunes, estuaries or any water body located in the coastal environment;
3. sites of cultural significance;
4. public health or safety; and
5. the rights of private property owners, where these are significantly compromised.

CE-P6 Activities in the Coastal Environment

Manage activities in the coastal environment by:

1. providing for existing activities, or new activities where these do not conflict with natural character values;
2. limiting the further expansion or intensity of plantation forestry to preserve natural character values; and
3. ensuring that any new subdivision, use or development:
 - a. is set back from the CMA boundary, and any identified coastal natural character area, to preserve natural character values and public access;
 - b. maintains the character and extent of existing settlements near the coastal environment; and
 - c. limits the prominence of built form and avoids creating strong visual contrasts.

CE-P7 Infrastructure in the Coastal Environment

Recognise and provide for the maintenance, upgrade and development of infrastructure that has a functional need or operational need to be located in the coastal environment, where this does not create adverse effects to the identified coastal natural character areas.

Proposed Methods

All permitted activities in the chapter are subject to activity standards.

Permitted Activities
<i>Restricted use of motor vehicles in certain areas</i>
<i>Public amenities (outside of identified coastal natural character areas)</i>
<i>Buildings and structures (outside of identified coastal natural character areas)</i>
<i>Plantation forestry (outside of identified coastal natural character areas)</i>

Restricted Discretionary Activities
<i>Public amenities (within any of high natural character area)</i>
<i>Buildings and structures (within any of the high natural character area)</i>

Discretionary Activities
<i>Construction of a new road in the coastal environment overlay</i>
<i>Public amenities (within areas of very high natural character and Outstanding Natural Character)</i>
<i>Buildings and structures (within areas of very high natural character and Outstanding Natural Character)</i>

Non-Complying Activities
<i>Construction of a new road (within any identified natural character area)</i>
<i>Use of motor vehicles (within any identified natural character area)</i>
<i>Plantation forestry (with any identified natural character area)</i>

Matters of Discretion
CE-MD1 Buildings and Structures
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The extent to which the proposal is consistent with maintaining, preserving or enhancing the natural character attributes of the coastal environment;2. The extent to which the proposal would result in the clearance of indigenous vegetation or disturb the habitat of threatened or at risk indigenous fauna;3. The extent to which the proposal would create adverse effects to sensitive habitats such as dunes, rivers, lakes or wetlands;4. The extent to which the proposal will integrate into the landscape and the appropriateness of the scale, form, design and finish (materials and colours) proposed and mitigation measures such as planting;5. The extent to which the proposal would compromise existing public access to the CMA;6. The extent to which natural elements such as landforms and vegetation within the site mitigate the visibility of the proposal;7. The extent to which the proposal would support conservation activities or recreation activities that are complementary to natural character; and8. Whether any restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment is proposed.

Appendix 2 - Operative District Plan Objectives, Policies and Methods

Objectives
<p>7.1.1 <i>The protection and enhancement of the natural character of the coastal environment.</i></p>
<p>7.2.1 <i>The maintenance and enhancement of existing legal public access to and along the landward edge of the Coastal Marine Area unless conservation values, cultural values, the rights of private property owners or public safety are significantly compromised.</i></p>
<p>7.3.1 <i>A standard of water quality in the coastal environment that maintains natural water quality, protects aquatic ecosystems, and natural character, and provides recreational, cultural, social and economic benefits for present and future generations.</i></p>
Policies
<p>7.1.1.1 <i>Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development, and public access, on the integrity, functioning and resilience of coastal environment habitats, ecosystems and coastal processes.</i></p>
<p>7.1.1.2. <i>Limit new subdivision, use and development of existing developed areas in the coastal environment unless adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on the natural character of the area can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.</i></p>
<p>7.1.1.3 <i>Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on the scenic, recreational, historic, scientific, and open space values, and wahi taonga areas in the coastal environment.</i></p>
<p>7.1.1.4 <i>Subdivision, use, and development that has the potential to cause strong visual contrasts, be visually incongruous, or modify the natural landforms in the coastal environment should be avoided, remedied or mitigated.</i></p>
<p>7.1.1.5 <i>Maintain and enhance the sand dune ecosystems and the ecological integrity of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in the coastal environment.</i></p>
<p>7.2.1.1 <i>Subdivision, use and development should not adversely affect access to and along the landward edge of the Coastal Marine Area.</i></p>
<p>7.2.1.2 <i>Existing opportunities for access to and along the landward edge of the Coastal Marine Area should be maintained and where appropriate, access to the Coastal Marine Area should be enhanced.</i></p>
<p>7.2.1.3 <i>Legal access to and along the Coastal Marine Area should only be restricted where it is necessary to protect significant natural values, sites, resources, and wahi taonga of significance to Maori, public health or safety</i></p>
<p>7.3.1.1 <i>To promote the management of margins of water bodies and estuaries to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of land use on the coastal environment.</i></p>
Methods

- *Subdivision rules that limit the expansion of beach settlements*
- *Water body setbacks*
- *Earthworks rules*
- *Restrictions on motor vehicles*
- *Riparian vegetation clearance rules*
- *Requirements for the provision of public access to the coast from Pegasus*
- *Limiting use of motor vehicles on active dunes*

Appendix 3 – Issues and Options Consultation

Group	Feedback	Response
Department of Conservation	Define the coastal environment and give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS). Refer to the Christchurch District Plan as an example.	The coastal environment is now mapped and provisions give effect to the NZCPS.
Environment Canterbury	Define the coastal environment and put in place objectives that give effect to the NZCPS and RPS.	The coastal environment is now mapped and provisions give effect to the NZCPS.
Federated Farmers	Oppose measures in the District Plan that may duplicate national and regional provisions.	The proposed District Plan no longer includes Regional Council functions such as provisions for coastal water quality.
Horticulture New Zealand	Consult with Horticulture NZ if considering new provisions for the coastal environment.	Consultation with Horticulture New Zealand was undertaken on 3 December 2019.
Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board	Better define and protect the coastal environment.	The coastal environment is mapped and the Ashley-Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary has significantly more protection across various chapters of the Plan.
Pegasus Residents Group	Support greater protection in District Plan for Tuhaitara Coastal Park.	Achieved through the proposed provisions.
Rangiora-Ashley Community Board	Protect Ashley/Rakahuri Estuary	The coastal environment is mapped and the Ashley-Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary has significantly more protection across various chapters of the Plan.
Individual Respondent	<p>Better define and protect coastal environment including Ashley/Rakahuri Estuary.</p> <p>Support for enhanced riparian management and wetland protection and biodiversity corridors.</p>	<p>The coastal environment is mapped and the Ashley-Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary has significantly more protection across various chapters of the Plan.</p> <p>Coastal wetlands have greater protection under the proposed provisions.</p>
Woodend-Sefton Community Board	<p>Better define the coastal environment.</p> <p>Better protection for the coastal environment including Tuhaitara Coastal Park.</p>	Achieved through the proposed provisions.

Appendix 4 – What’s the Plan? Consultation

Group	Feedback	Response
Individual Respondent	<p>Sought protection for dunes and patches of indigenous vegetation</p> <p>Sought management of dogs and vehicles in the coastal environment.</p> <p>Stated that the only acceptable activities in the coastal environment were those that do not harm the environment.</p> <p>Requested that the Council consider the impacts of climate change and sea level rise and consider potential planned retreat.</p>	<p>Dunes are protected through the proposed provisions.</p> <p>These matters are addressed in the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016.</p> <p>Achieved in Natural Character areas in the coastal environment. However, underlying rural and residential activities provide for these existing activities.</p> <p>This is addressed through the Natural Hazards chapter.</p>
Individual Respondent	<p>Sought management for housing, infrastructure and parking in the coastal environment.</p> <p>Provide for sea level rise in the future.</p> <p>Mentioned that the only acceptable activities in the coastal environment were those within the constraints of hazard protection.</p>	<p>Subdivision, use and development are covered in the proposed chapter.</p> <p>This will be addressed through the Natural Hazards chapter.</p> <p>Addressed in the proposed provisions and Natural Hazard provisions.</p>
Individual Respondent	<p>Sought restrictions on cars and motorbikes for the protection of wildlife.</p> <p>Pedestrian activities only acceptable level of activity.</p>	<p>These matters are specifically covered through the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw. However, these activities are also covered by the proposed chapter.</p> <p>Achieved through the proposed provisions.</p>
Individual Respondent	<p>Sought management of intensive farming.</p> <p>Also sought management for vehicles along beaches during the whitebait season.</p>	<p>This is addressed through the proposed provisions.</p> <p>This is managed by the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2016.</p>
Pegasus Residents Group Incorporated	<p>Sought greater protection for Tūhaitara Coastal Park and the Ashley Rakahuri / Saltwater Creek Estuary.</p> <p>Supported the identification of the coastal environment and rules on</p>	<p>These are addressed through the proposed provisions.</p>

	activities such as structures that could compromise natural character.	
Woodend-Sefton Community Board	Sought maximum protection for the coastal environment	This is addressed through the proposed provisions.
Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board	<p>Sought no additional controls on activities in the coastal environment. Concerned that additional forestry activity controls in the coastal environment could impact Council assets and Te Kohaka coastal environment.</p> <p>Requested that the chapter take into account when building close to coast and limit development in the coastal zone.</p> <p>Sought no further activity in the coastal environment.</p>	<p>The District Plan must give effect to the NZCPS which requires the protection of the Natural Character of the Coastal Environment. This is also a matter of national importance under Section 6 of the RMA. Plantation forestry is a threat to natural character and therefore requires management.</p> <p>The proposed provisions limit development in the coastal environment. This will also be addressed in the Natural Hazards chapter.</p> <p>Not achievable as there are underlying zones that provide for existing rural activities and residential activities. However, further activity in Natural Character areas will be limited.</p>
Horticulture New Zealand	Horticulture New Zealand sought engagement with the District Council.	Consultation with Horticulture New Zealand was undertaken in December 2019.
Federated Farmers	Requested that Council does not duplicate rules. Asked that Council consider the impact of change on private landowners and consult directly.	Achieved through the proposed provisions and consultation has been undertaken directly with landowners as part of the District Plan Review.
Department of Conservation	<p>Requested that the reviewed District Plan contain policies and rules related to Policy 15 (a) and (b) of the NZCPS.</p> <p>Stated that the Plan should identify and provide for public open space and access outlined in policies 18 and 19 of the NZCPS.</p> <p>Further stated that the Plan should identify areas and opportunities for restoration and rehabilitation of natural character.</p>	<p>Achieved through the proposed provisions.</p> <p>This will be addressed through the Open Space chapter and the Public Access chapter.</p> <p>The proposed chapter provides for the rehabilitation of natural character.</p>
Individual Submitter	Stated that “do no harm” should apply. Mentioned that financial reward is not sufficient grounds for consent in this area.	Achieved through the proposed provisions.
Individual Submitter	Stated that the Council should give serious consideration to climate change, particularly sea-level rise, extreme weather events and tsunami risk.	This will be addressed through the Natural Hazard provisions.

Canterbury District Health Board	Stated that development should not occur in high hazard areas and septic systems must be resilient.	This will be addressed through the Natural Hazard provisions.
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Appendix 5 – Landowner Consultations

Feedback	Response
<p>Concerned that any new rules in the coastal environment may affect the ability to farm the land, or change the type of farming that was currently undertaken on the land.</p> <p>Concerned that new rules would require resource consent for stop banks, or maintenance of stop banks.</p> <p>Questioned the accuracy of the coastal environment mapping, including the coastal marine area boundary that was shown in an online map.</p> <p>Asked what the activity rules would be in relation to the coastal environment.</p>	<p>Underlying zone will be rural and rural activities will be provided for.</p> <p>Explained that if a resource consent was obtained, or the stop bank was established legally, new consent would not be required as existing use rights apply.</p> <p>Contacted Boffa Miskell regarding coastal environment mapping, who suggested a site visit would be necessary for confirmation. Implemented a more up to date coastal marine area boundary.</p> <p>Explained that provisions were subject to frequent changes while drafting and would be finalised on notification of the proposed District Plan.</p>
<p>Concerned that new rules might prevent them from building a shed on their property.</p>	<p>Explained that any rules would likely not come into effect for between two and five years and after the notification of the proposed District Plan. Residential activities are also provided for as part of the underlying zone provisions.</p>
<p>Concerned that new rules might prevent them building a house on their property.</p>	<p>Explained that any rules would likely not come into effect for between two and five years and after the notification of the proposed District Plan. Residential activities are also provided for as part of the underlying zone provisions.</p>
<p>Concerned that new rules may prevent the landowner from building a bunding to protect the land from storm surge or king tide flooding on the property.</p>	<p>It is likely that this would require management, as any structure could affect the natural character of the coastal environment.</p>
<p>Concerned that the Council was trying to take land from landowners.</p>	<p>Explained that this was not the intention of the provisions.</p>
<p>A group of private landowners came in to discuss the mapping of the coastal environment. Believed that the coastal mapping had only been applied to freehold land and no mapping had been identified on Environment Canterbury land. Suggested removing mapping from their properties and adding more Environment Canterbury land.</p>	<p>The coastal environment has been identified on Environment Canterbury land but not the area identified by the landowners.</p> <p>Provided them with aerial imagery and asked for them to provide some feedback for where they believe the line should be drawn.</p>

Appendix 6 – Coastal Environment Schedules of Identified Natural Character Areas

All natural character assessments are based on the overall rating of each of the following Natural Character attributes:

- Abiotic systems and landforms
- Terrestrial biotic landforms
- Landcover and land use
- Perceptual and experiential values

CE-SCHED1 – Outstanding Natural Character Areas in the Coastal Environment

Ashley-Rakahuri Estuary – Outstanding Natural Character

	Abiotic	Biotic		Experiential
Overall Rating	Abiotic Systems & Landforms	Terrestrial Biotic Landforms	Land Cover & Land Use	Perceptual/Experiential
Very High Natural Character	Very High	Very High		High
Natural Character Attributes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mapped extent of this Outstanding Natural Character area is defined by the waters of the river mouth and the lagoon and excludes the more modified parts of the adjacent land. The mapped area does include areas below MHWS. However, for this area of Outstanding Natural Character, it is difficult to separate out marine and terrestrial components based on their interdependency. 				
Abiotic Systems and Landforms				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braided Ashley river mouth and saltmarshes retain high legibility through lack of modification. • It is a largely unmodified example of a large river mouth and saltmarsh community with its hydrological and geomorphological processes largely intact. 				
Terrestrial Biotic Systems & Land Cover/Land Use				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estuary supports very high ecological values and includes extensive areas of saltmarsh vegetation. • Provides outstanding habitat for a very high diversity of coastal and wetland bird species, including migratory species. • It provides a significant habitat for the life cycle of fish, including providing flatfish nursery habitats. 				
Perceptual/Experiential				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estuary retains high experiential, legibility and naturalness values due to lack of modification. • The estuary provides opportunities for white baiting, fishing and bird watching. 				
Additional Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Marine' component retains high levels of natural character, as mapped within the 'Draft Marine' ECan Study 2017. • The coastal area is largely confined to the immediate estuary/river mouth. The surrounding areas are farmed and highly modified. • Excludes the more modified pastoral land and areas of settlement. 				

CE-SCHED2 High and Very High Natural Character Areas in the Coastal Environment

Jockey Baker Creek – Very High Natural Character

	Abiotic	Biotic		Experiential
Overall Rating	Abiotic Systems & Landforms	Terrestrial Biotic Landforms	Land Cover & Land Use	Perceptual/Experiential
Very High Natural Character	Very High	Very High		High
Natural Character Attributes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This creek is now an estuarine saltmarsh that has relatively intact sequences of intertidal - supratidal saltmarsh and freshwater shallow water habitats that are dominated by native vegetation. This wetland is utilised by wading birds and waterfowl and provides good habitat for the threatened (Nationally Critical) Australasian Bittern. High experiential values. 				
Additional Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More modified area of land excluded from area, including stop bank, rock armouring, drains and culverts. 				

Tūtaepatu Lagoon – High Natural Character

	Abiotic	Biotic		Experiential
Overall Rating	Abiotic Systems & Landforms	Terrestrial Biotic Landforms	Land Cover & Land Use	Perceptual/Experiential
High Natural Character	High	Very High		High
Natural Character Attributes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tūtaepatu Lagoon provides a very important habitat for indigenous fauna, including birds and freshwater fish and is of high ecological significance. It supports large populations of some bird species and a high diversity of waterfowl, Generally low levels of modification, and high levels of naturalness. 				
Additional Comments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pine forest plantations and modified land excluded from this mapped area. 				

Te Kohanga Wetlands - High Natural Character

	Abiotic	Biotic		Experiential
Overall Rating	Abiotic Systems & Landforms	Terrestrial Biotic Landforms	Land Cover & Land Use	Perceptual/Experiential
High Natural Character	High	High		High

Natural Character Attributes

- A number of wetland areas are the focus of extensive ecological restoration efforts.
- A number of recreational opportunities including walking, cycling, and horse riding.
- High experiential values, including naturalness and tranquillity.

Additional Comments

- Extensive pine forest plantations and the introduced sand binder marram grass have substantially modified the coastal environment and are excluded from this mapped area.