

Waimakariri District Council Proposed Waimakariri District Plan

Recommendations of the PDP Hearings Panel

Recommendation Report 10

Hearing Stream 4

Part 2: District-wide matters – NFL – Natural Features and Landscapes

This report should be read in conjunction with **Report 1** and **Recommendation Reports 2 and 17**.

Report 1 contains an explanation of how the recommendations in all subsequent reports have been developed and presented, along with a glossary of terms used throughout the reports, a record of all Panel Minutes, a record of the recommendation reports and a summary of overarching recommendations. It does not contain any recommendations per se.

Recommendation Report 2 contains the PDP Panel's recommendations on the PDP's Part 2: District-wide Matters – Strategic directions - SD Strategic directions objectives and policies.

Recommendation report 17 contains the PDP Panel's recommendations on the PDP's EI - Energy and Infrastructure Chapter.

Appendix 1: Schedule of attendances

Appendix 2: Recommended amendments to the Proposed Plan - Tracked from notified version (provisions not consequentially renumbered)

The Hearings Panel for the purposes of **Hearing Stream 4** comprised Commissioners Gina Sweetman (Chair), Allan Cubitt, Gary Rae, Megen McKay, Neville Atkinson and Niki Mealings.

1. Introduction

Report outline and approach

1. This is Report 10 of 37 Recommendation Reports prepared by the PDP Hearings Panel appointed to hear and make recommendations on submissions to the Proposed Waimakariri District Plan (PDP).
2. The report addresses the objective, policies and the advice note relating to the NFL – Natural Features and Landscape chapter and the submissions received on those provisions. The relevant provisions are:
 - Introduction
 - Objectives NFL-O1 to NFL-O3
 - Policies NFL-P1 to NFL-P4
 - Rules NFL-R1 – NFL -R12
 - Standards NFL -S1 and NFL -S2
 - Matters of Discretion NFL-MD1 – NFL -MD2
 - NFL-APP1.
3. We have structured our discussion on this topic as follows:
 - (a) **Section 2** summarises key contextual matters, including relevant provisions and key issues/themes in submissions;
 - (b) **Sections 3 - 5** contains our evaluation of key issues and recommended amendments to provisions;
 - (c) **Section 6** contains any consequential amendments; and
 - (d) **Section 7** contains our conclusions.
4. This Recommendation Report contains the following appendices:
 - (a) **Appendix 1: Schedule of attendances** at the hearing on this topic. We refer to the parties concerned and the evidence they presented throughout this Recommendation Report, where relevant.
 - (b) **Appendix 2: Recommended amendments to the Proposed Plan – Tracked from notified version.** This sets out the final amendments we recommend be made to the PDP provisions relating to this topic. The amendments show the specific wording of the amendments we have recommended and are shown in a ‘tracked change’ format showing changes from the notified version of the PDP for ease of reference. Where whole provisions have been deleted or added, we have not shown any consequential renumbering, as this method maintains the integrity of how the submitters and s42A Report authors have referred to specific provisions, and our analysis of these in the Recommendation Reports. New whole provisions are prefaced with the term ‘new’ and deleted provisions are shown as struck out, with no subsequential renumbering in either case.

5. We record that all submissions on the provisions relating to the NFL – Natural Features and Landscape chapter have been taken into account in our deliberations. In general, submissions in support of the PDP have not been discussed but are accepted or accepted in part. More detailed descriptions of the submissions and key issues can be found in the relevant s42A Reports, Responses to Preliminary Questions, Joint Witness Statements and written Reply Reports, which are available on the Council’s website.
6. In accordance with the approach set out in Report 1, this Report focuses only on ‘exceptions’, where we do not agree fully or in part with the s42A report author’s recommendations and / or reasons, and / or have additional discussion and reasons in respect to a particular submission point, evidence at the hearing, or another matter. In this particular case, the integration issues with the EI chapter were resolved through the Joint Witness conferencing process. Original submissions have been accepted or rejected as recommended by the s42A report author unless otherwise stated in our Recommendation Reports. Further submissions are either accepted or rejected in conformance with our recommendations on the original submission to which the further submission relates.
7. The requirements in clause 10 of the First Schedule of the Act and s32AA are relevant to our considerations of the PDP provisions and the submissions received on those provisions. These are outlined in full in Report 1. In summary, these provisions require among other things:
 - (a) our evaluation to be focussed on changes to the proposed provisions arising since the notification of the PDP and its s32 reports;
 - (b) the provisions to be examined as to whether they are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives; and
 - (c) as part of that examination, that:
 - i. reasonable alternatives within the scope afforded by submissions on the provisions and corresponding evidence are considered;
 - ii. the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions is assessed;
 - iii. the reasons for our recommendations are summarised; and
 - iv. our report contains a level of detail commensurate with the scale and significance of the changes recommended.
8. We have not produced a separate evaluation report under s32AA. Where we have adopted the recommendations of Council’s s42A report authors, we have adopted their reasoning, unless expressly stated otherwise. This includes the s32AA assessments attached to the relevant s42A Reports, Reply Reports, Joint Witness Statements and/or. Those reports are part of the public record and are available on the Council website. Where our recommendation differs from the s42A report authors’ recommendations, we have incorporated our s32AA evaluation into the body of our report as part of our reasons for recommended amendments, as opposed to including this in a separate table or appendix.
9. A fuller discussion of our approach in this respect is set out in Section 5 of Report 1.

2. Summary of provisions and key issues

Outline of matters addressed in this section

10. In this section, we provide relevant context around which our evaluation of the notified provisions and submissions received on them is based. Our discussion includes:
- (a) summary of relevant provisions;
 - (b) themes raised in submissions; and
 - (c) identification of key issues for our subsequent evaluation.

Submissions

11. This chapter, along with the definition of 'Gravel extraction' and 'Plantation forestry', attracted 22 original submitters, who made a 126 submission points. There were also nine further submitters who made 94 further submission points.

Key issues

12. The issues in contention on this chapter addressed in this report are:
- Quarry Activities - NFL-R12
 - NFL- P3(5), NFL-P4(7) and NFL-R12
 - NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5), NFL-P4(7)
 - NFL-R4

3. Mining and Quarrying Activities - NFL-R12

Overview

13. The following is a summary of the Panel's recommended amendments in relation to mining and quarrying activities, beyond those recommended by the s42A report author.

Provision	Panel recommendations
NFL-R12 Mining and Quarrying activities	Amend the activity status for mining and quarrying activities from 'non-complying' within the Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL to 'discretionary'.

Reasons

14. The submissions we consider here are those from Fulton Hogan Ltd¹ seeking amendments to NFL-P3(5), NFL-P4(7) and NFL-R12 to provide a consenting pathway for mining and quarrying activities within ONLs and SALs. To achieve this, Fulton Hogan requested that the policies refer to 'primary production' instead of 'rural production', and that reference to quarrying be deleted from NFL-P4(7). Associated with this was the request that the activity status for mining and quarrying activities within ONLs and SALs under NFL-R12 to be amended from non-complying to discretionary.

¹ 41.25, 41.26 and 41.27

15. The s42A report author did not support providing for mining and quarrying activities within SALs, ONLs, and ONFs as the landscape evaluation report identified these activities as a threat to values of these areas. Given the potential for adverse effects the report author considered that non-complying activity status is appropriate for such activities within an ONL/ONF/SAL.
16. Mr Ensor presented comprehensive evidence on this matter on behalf of Fulton Hogan at the hearing. In his opinion, the statutory context of NFL-P3 and NFL-P4 has been lost and *“as a result the policies focus on activities rather than effects.”* While he acknowledged that *“quarrying activities may have greater potential to impact an ONF, ONL or SAL than some other Primary Production activity, Policy NFL-P3 and NFL-P4 contain the appropriate backstop for managing the risk for all.”* His basic position was that given the requirement to *“not detract from the identified values”* within the relevant policies, *“then a new quarrying activity should have the opportunity to be assessed on its merits as a discretionary activity.”* In his view, this approach is more efficient and effective in terms of S32 of the RMA as it minimises the costs associated with a potentially more protracted consent process, while achieving the environmental benefits.
17. The Panel accepts the s42A report author’s position that non-complying activity status for such activities is appropriate in ONLs and ONFs. The policy for these areas requires such activities to be avoided, but that is qualified with the phrase ‘which create adverse effects on the identified values’. Our understanding is that recent Supreme Court decisions have clarified that this does not mean the prohibition of minor or transitory effects where the prohibition of those effects would likely not be necessary to preserve the characteristic of the environment in question. Hence, it is therefore our understanding that the pathway is not totally closed for such activities in these environments.
18. With respect to the SAL, the Panel agrees with Fulton Hogan that these are a ‘lower tier’ landscape class and, as such, it is appropriate to provide the opportunity for mining and quarrying activities to be assessed on their merits in such environments. Accordingly, we recommend that such activities are identified as ‘discretionary’ within SALs.
19. In terms of the policies, we are comfortable with the amendment recommended to NFL-P4(4) by the s42A report author to provide a pathway for these activities within SALs. We have also recommended amendments below to NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5), NFL-P4(7) to address the concern raised Dairy Holdings Limited which we address below. These amendments do introduce the phrase ‘primary production’ but it is qualified with the word ‘other’ which takes it outside the policy context for mining and quarrying activities identified in NFL-P1(5), NFL-P3(4), NFL-P4(4).

4. NFL-P1, NFL-P3 and NFL-P4

20. The following is a summary of the Panel's recommended amendments to NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5), NFL-P4(7) beyond those recommended by the s42A report author:

Provision	Panel recommendations
NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5), NFL-P4(7)	Delete the recommended change to these rules and amend the reference to 'existing rural' to 'other primary' in the rules.

21. The submission we consider here is that of Dairy Holdings Limited² who sought the following new policy: *"Recognise that there may be working farmland and other rural production activities occurring in areas identified as outstanding natural features and landscapes, or visual amenity landscapes."*
22. The s42A report author (paragraph 107) recommended rejecting this submission on the basis that it was *"unnecessary as this matter is already covered by NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5), and NFL-P4(7) and s10 of the RMA provides for activities with existing use rights to continue to occur"*. However, in her reply report, the report author was of the view that this submission provides scope to better clarify the intent of NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5) and NFL-P4(7) which is to convey that rural activities are provided for within these areas. These policies are to provide *"for existing rural production where this does not detract from the identified values"*.
23. Her final recommendation not only removed the term 'existing', given it conflicts with s10 of the RMA, but also the reference to *"where this does not detract from the identified values"* for similar reasons. Her recommendation was to amend NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5), and NFL-P4(7) to read as follows:

~~"providing for existing rural production~~ recognising and providing for working farmland ~~where this does not detract from the identified values"~~

24. While the Panel agrees with the sentiment behind the proposed amendment, we are uncomfortable with the use of the phrase 'working farmland' given this is not a defined term in either the PDP or in the National Planning Standards. We agree with removal of the word 'existing' from these clauses, given s10 of the Act which allows existing farming and other production activities to continue in such environments. We also agree that certain 'rural production' activities can be provided for within these areas. However, we prefer the use of National Planning Standard term of 'primary production' in these clauses, rather than the undefined term 'working farmland'.
25. While we understand and share the concern that some primary production activities may not be appropriate in these environments, clauses NFL-P1(5), NFL-P3(4), and NFL-P4(4) already identify these, and provide a separate policy context for such activities.

² 420.24

Referring to other ‘primary production’ activities in NFL-P1(6), NFL-P3(5), and NFL-P4(7) will provide an appropriate policy basis for the ongoing operation and development of primary production activities in these areas. Retaining the proviso that they “do not detract from the identified values” will ensure that this only occurs if the values of these areas are protected.

5. NFL – R4 Public Amenities

26. The following is a summary of the Panel’s recommended amendments to NFL-R4 beyond those recommended by the s42A report author:

Provision	Panel recommendations
NFL-R4	Change the recommended maximum width for cycleway/walkway from 2.5m to 3m

27. The submission we consider here is that of Forest and Bird³ who sought to amend NFL-R4 to exclude public amenities that are not subject to the activity standards, such as walkways and cycleways, as these are included within the definition of ‘public amenities’ but can cause effects. Waka Kotahi⁴ opposed this submission as it would result in resource consent requirements for walkways/cycleways. They suggested that additional conditions be added to manage the effects of larger scale cycleways/walkways instead.
28. The s42A report author agreed with Forest and Bird that a particularly wide walkway/cycleway could have an impact on the landscape values of the ONL, ONF, or SAL, and adopted the approach recommended by Waka Kotahi by adding a standard that restricted the maximum width of walkways/cycleways to 2.5m.
29. The Panel agrees that it is appropriate to restrict the maximum width of cycleways/walkways. However, we note that NFL-R6 provides for access tracks up to 3m wide in such environments and we consider NFL-R4 should be made consistent with this rule. Adopting a 3m maximum width is still aligned with the New Zealand Cycle Trail Design Guide, which recommends a width of 2.5m-4.0m for a double cycle trail on the easiest grade.⁵

6. Other Matters and Consequential Changes

30. There are no consequential changes that we have identified as being necessary.

³ 192.77

⁴ FS110

⁵ See paragraph h268 of the s42A Report which refers to the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment - New Zealand Cycle Trail Design Guide (August 2019 – 5th edition)

7. Conclusion

31. For the reasons summarised above, we recommend the adoption of a set of changes to the PDP provisions relating to Part 2: District-wide matters – NFL – Natural Features and Landscape chapter. Our recommended amendments are shown in Appendix 2.
32. Overall, we find that these changes will ensure the PDP better achieves the statutory requirements, national and regional direction, and our recommended Strategic Directions, and will improve its useability.

**Appendix 1: Submitter attendance and tabled evidence for Natural Features and Landscapes -
Hearing Stream 4**

Attendee	Speaker	Submitter No.
Council Reporting Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelley Milosavljevic 	N/A
Transpower New Zealand Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ainsley McLeod John Sutherland 	195
Canterbury Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jo Mitten 	316
Chorus New Zealand Limited, Spark New Zealand Trading Limited, Vodafone New Zealand Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Horne Graeme McCarrison Fiona Matthews Colin Clune 	95
Fulton Hogan Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timothy Ensor 	41
Department of Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy Young Pene Williams 	419, FS 77
Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Lionel Hume Karl Dean 	414, FS 83
Tabled Evidence		
Waimakariri Irrigation Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Williams Kirsty Jacomb 	210
MainPower New Zealand Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melanie Foote 	249
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicky Snoyink 	192, FS 78

Appendix 2: Recommended amendments to the Proposed Plan - Tracked from notified version
(provisions not consequentially renumbered)

NFL - Āhuetanga o te whenua - Natural Features and Landscapes

Introduction

Natural landscapes are the visible features of an area of land, or broad landforms, or a collection of landforms, such as hills, valleys or open plains. Natural features are less broad landforms or biophysical entities such as river corridors, wetlands, lakes or geological formations.

The District Council has a statutory obligation to recognise and provide for the protection of outstanding natural landscapes and features from inappropriate subdivision, use and development as a matter of national importance under the RMA.

The RPS identifies the assessment matters for determining whether a natural feature or landscape should be classified as outstanding and classifies regional-scale outstanding natural features and landscapes. It also provides for assessments at a district level. Using this assessment, there are natural features and landscapes that have been identified as outstanding at a district scale. These are shown on the planning map and comprise:

- the Puketeraki Mountains and the front ranges including Mt Oxford and Mt Thomas ONL,
- the Waimakariri River ONF, and
- the Ashley River/Rakahuri Saltwater Creek estuary ONF (also known as Te Aka Aka)¹.

Utilising the same assessment matters, the remainder of the Ashley River/Rakahuri upstream of the estuary has been identified as a SAL.

~~Activities in, on, under or over the beds of lakes and rivers are managed by the Regional Council and as such the rules in this chapter do not apply to these areas.²~~

The provisions in this chapter are consistent with the matters in Part 2 - District Wide Matters - Strategic Directions and give effect to matters in Part 2 - District Wide Matters - Urban Form and Development.

Other potentially relevant District Plan provisions

As well as the provisions in this chapter, other District Plan chapters that contain provisions that may also be relevant to natural features and landscapes include:

- Energy and Infrastructure: this chapter includes provisions to manage energy and infrastructure activities within ONL, ONFs, and SAL; as such the rules and standards³ within the NFL Chapter do not apply to energy and infrastructure. The objectives, policies, matters of discretion, appendix, and planning map overlay relating to the NFL chapter do apply to energy and infrastructure activities within ONL, ONFs, or SAL.⁴
- Earthworks: this chapter contains provisions to manage earthworks within the identified ONL, ONF and SAL areas.
- Natural Hazards: this chapter is relevant as natural hazard mitigation measures can occur within ONL, ONF and SAL areas.
- Natural Character of Freshwater Bodies: this chapter is relevant as some natural character of scheduled freshwater bodies setbacks provisions are also within a natural feature or landscape.
- Coastal Environment: this chapter contains provisions that are relevant as natural features and landscapes can occur within this environment.
- Special Purpose Zone (Kāinga Nohoanga): how the Natural Features and Landscapes provisions apply in the Special Purpose Zone (Kāinga Nohoanga) is set out in SPZ(KN)-APP1 to SPZ(KN)-APP5 of that chapter.
- Any other District wide matter that may affect or relate to the site.
- Zones: the zone chapters contain provisions about what activities are anticipated to occur in the zones.

¹ Judith Roper-Lindsay [120.15]

² Environment Canterbury [316.11]

³ Transpower [195.84] and Chorus, Spark and Vodafone [62.50 and 62.51]

⁴ Transpower [195.84]

Objectives	
NFL-O1	Outstanding Natural Features Outstanding natural features are protected from <u>inappropriate⁵ subdivision,</u> ^{6,7} land use or development that would adversely affect the values of these features.
NFL-O2	Outstanding Natural Landscapes Outstanding natural landscapes are protected from <u>inappropriate⁸ subdivision,</u> ^{9,10} land use or development that would adversely affect the values of these landscapes.
NFL-O3	Significant Amenity Landscapes The values of significant amenity landscapes are maintained.
Policies	
NFL-P1	Protect Outstanding Natural Features Recognise the values of the outstanding natural features identified in NFL-APP1 and protect them from the adverse effects of <u>inappropriate¹¹ subdivision,</u> ¹² activities and development, <u>except where the effects of regionally significant infrastructure are managed by EI-P5,</u> ¹³ by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. avoiding use and development that detracts from the very high biophysical values and high sensory and associative values identified in NFL-APP1 for the Waimakariri River; 2. avoiding use and development that detracts from the very high biophysical and sensory values, and high associative values of the Ashley River/Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary identified in NFL-APP1, including on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. coastal physical processes; b. ecological habitat and indigenous biodiversity; and c. the experience of the elements and processes of (a) and (b); 3. enabling community scale erosion and flood control structures where adverse impacts on the values are mitigated; 4. avoiding any significant loss of indigenous vegetation; 5. avoiding activities such as <u>plantation commercial</u>¹⁴ forestry, woodlots, shelterbelts, mining and quarrying activities and large buildings or groups of buildings or other structures which create adverse effects on the identified values; 6. providing for <u>existing rural other primary</u> production where this does not detract from the identified values;¹⁵ and 7. enabling conservation activities and non motorised recreation activities;¹⁶
NFL-P2	Ngāi Tūāhuriri customary harvesting Recognise and provide for Ngāi Tūāhuriri customary harvesting of natural resources in identified natural features and landscapes, as an integral part of these areas.
NFL-P3	Protect Outstanding Natural Landscapes Recognise the values of the outstanding natural landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 and protect them from the adverse effects of <u>inappropriate¹⁷ subdivision,</u> ^{18,19} activities and development, <u>except where the effects of regionally significant infrastructure are managed by EI-P5,</u> ²⁰ by:

⁵ Transpower [195.85]

⁶ Transpower [195.85]

⁷ Waka Kotahi [275.24]

⁸ Transpower [195.86]

⁹ Transpower [195.86]

¹⁰ Waka Kotahi [275.25]

¹¹ Transpower [195.88]

¹² Transpower [195.88]

¹³ Transpower [195.88]

¹⁴ s44A RMA

¹⁵ Dairy Holdings Limited [420.24]

¹⁶ Transpower [195.88]

¹⁷ Transpower [195.89]

¹⁸ Transpower [195.86]

¹⁹ Waka Kotahi [275.25]

²⁰ Transpower [195.89]

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoiding use and development that detracts from the very high biophysical values and high sensory and associative values of the Puketeraki Range and Oxford Foothills identified in NFL-APP1, in particular on the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> exposed alpine environments; sheltered densely forested slopes and gullies of the Oxford Hills; indigenous vegetation; and recreational values; avoiding use and development in areas which have no capacity to absorb change, including near ridgelines, and mitigating adverse effects through bulk, location and design controls in other areas; avoiding any significant loss of indigenous vegetation; avoiding activities such as plantation commercial²¹ forestry, shelterbelts, mining and quarrying activities which create adverse effects on the identified values; providing for existing rural other primary production where this does not detract from the identified values;²² and enabling conservation activities and non motorised recreation activities.
NFL-P4	<p>Maintain Significant Amenity Landscapes</p> <p>Recognise the values of the significant amenity landscapes identified in NFL-APP1 and maintain them, <u>except where the effects of regionally significant infrastructure are managed by EI-P5,</u>²³ by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> managing adverse effects of use and development on the moderate-high biophysical values and high sensory and associative values of the Ashley River/Rakahuri identified in NFL-APP1, in particular on the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> braided river system; indigenous fauna and vegetation; the wilderness and natural environment; and recreational values; enabling community scale erosion and flood control structures where adverse impacts on the values are mitigated; avoiding any significant loss of indigenous vegetation; avoiding incompatible activities, including plantation commercial²⁴ forestry, shelterbelts, mining and quarrying activities, and large buildings or groups of buildings or other structures <u>where these activities result in which create</u>²⁵ unacceptable adverse effects on the identified values; mitigating through bulk, location and design controls the adverse effects of other uses and development in areas which have no capacity to absorb change; providing for non motorised recreation activities and conservation activities; <u>and</u> providing for existing rural other primary production where this does not detract from the identified values;²⁶

Activity Rules

Rules

How to interpret and apply the rules

- (1) The rules within the NFL Chapter do not apply to energy and infrastructure activities.²⁷
- (2) The rules within this chapter shall not apply to the activities provided for in NH-R8 (the maintenance of existing community scale natural hazard mitigation works), NH-R9 (upgrading existing community

²¹ s44A RMA

²² Dairy Holdings Limited [420.24]

²³ Transpower [195.90]

²⁴ s44A RMA

²⁵ Fulton Hogan Ltd [41.26]

²⁶ Dairy Holdings Limited [420.24]

²⁷ Transpower [195.84]

NFL-R1	Addition to an existing building	
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL	Activity status: PER Where: 1. the addition to the building footprint is a maximum of 100m ² in any 10 year period;	Activity status when compliance not achieved: RDIS Matters of discretion are restricted to: NFL-MD1 - New buildings and structures, additions to buildings, <u>cycleways</u> , <u>walkways</u> , ²⁹ and access tracks
Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF	Activity status: DIS Where: 2. the addition to the building footprint is a maximum of 100m ² in any 10 year period.	Activity status when compliance not achieved: NC
NFL-R2	Building for park management activities or conservation activities	
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL	Activity status: PER Where: 1. any individual building shall have a maximum building footprint of 100m ² .	Activity status when compliance not achieved: RDIS Matters of discretion are restricted to: NFL-MD1 - New buildings and structures, additions to buildings, <u>cycleways</u> , <u>walkways</u> , ³⁰ and access tracks
Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF	Activity status: NC	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A
NFL-R3	Farm building, residential unit and ancillary buildings to residential activity or primary production	
Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL	Activity status: PER Where: 1. any individual building shall have a maximum building footprint of:	Activity status when compliance not achieved: RDIS Matters of discretion are restricted to:

²⁸ Environment Canterbury [316.81]

²⁹ Forest and Bird [192.77]

³⁰ Forest and Bird [192.77]

	<p>a. 75m² in the Natural Open Space Zone; and</p> <p>b. 150m² in any Rural Zones.</p>	<p>NFL-MD1 - New buildings and structures, additions to buildings, <u>cycleways</u>, <u>walkways</u>,³¹ and access tracks</p>
NFL-R4	Public amenities	
<p>Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL</p>	<p>Activity status: PER Where: 1. any individual building shall have a maximum building footprint of 75m²; 2. the maximum height of any building shall be 5m; and 3. there shall be only one public amenities building per site within the ONF, ONL or SAL area; <u>and</u> 4. <u>any cycleway or walkway shall have a maximum formed width of 3m.</u>³²</p>	<p>Activity status when compliance not achieved in the Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL: RDIS Matters of discretion are restricted to: NFL-MD1 - New buildings and structures, additions to buildings, <u>cycleways</u>, <u>walkways</u>,³³ and access tracks Activity status when compliance not achieved in the Waimakariri River ONF and Puketeraki Range and Oxford Foothills ONL: DIS</p>
<p>Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF</p>	<p>Activity status: NC</p>	<p>Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A</p>
NFL-R5	Structures and buildings	
	<p><i>This rule does not apply to structures and buildings provided for under NFL-R1 to NFL-R4, NFL-R8, or natural hazards mitigation structures for flooding</i>³⁴.</p>	
<p>Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL</p>	<p>Activity status: PER Where: 1. each individual structure or building shall have a maximum footprint of 10m², except that this shall not apply to post and rail or wire fences which are more than 75% visually transparent.</p>	<p>Activity status when compliance not achieved in the Puketeraki Range and Oxford Foothills ONL: RDIS Matters of discretion are restricted to: NFL-MD1 - New buildings and structures, additions to buildings, <u>cycleways</u>, <u>walkways</u>,³⁵ and access tracks Activity status when compliance not achieved in the Waimakariri River ONF and Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL: NC</p>
<p>Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater</p>	<p>Activity status: NC</p>	<p>Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A</p>

³¹ Forest and Bird [192.77]

³² Forest and Bird.[192.77]

³³ Forest and Bird [192.77]

³⁴ Environment Canterbury [316.81]

³⁵ Forest and Bird [192.77]

Creek Estuary ONF		
NFL-R6	Access tracks and parking areas	
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL	Activity status: PER Where: 1. new tracks or parking areas, or widening of existing tracks and parking areas have a formed width of less than 3m.	Activity status when compliance not achieved: RDIS Matters of discretion are restricted to: NFL-MD1 - New buildings and structures, additions to buildings, <u>cycleways</u> , <u>walkways</u> ³⁶ and access tracks
Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF	Activity status: NC	Activity status when compliance not achieved: NC
NFL-R7	Commercial motorised activities	
Waimakariri River ONF Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL	Activity status: RDIS Matters of discretion are restricted to: NFL-MD2 - Motorised activities	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A
Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF	Activity status: NC	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A
NFL-R8	Centre pivot and travelling irrigators	
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL	Activity status: DIS	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A

³⁶ Forest and Bird [192.77]

Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF	Activity status: NC	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A
NFL-R9³⁷	Formation of a new road³⁸	
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL³⁹	Activity status: DIS⁴⁰	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A⁴¹
Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF⁴²	Activity status: NC⁴³	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A⁴⁴
NFL-R109⁴⁵	Woodlot or shelterbelts	
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL	Activity status: DIS	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A
Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF	Activity status: NC	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A

³⁷ Transpower [195.84]

³⁸ Transpower [195.84]

³⁹ Transpower [195.84]

⁴⁰ Transpower [195.84]

⁴¹ Transpower [195.84]

⁴² Transpower [195.84]

⁴³ Transpower [195.84]

⁴⁴ Transpower [195.84]

⁴⁵ Consequential renumbering

NFL-R140⁴⁶	Planting restricted tree species	
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL	Activity status: DIS Where: 1. planting of any of the following tree species: a. Lodgepole Pine – <i>Pinus contorta</i>; b. Scots Pine – <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>; ⁴⁷ c. Douglas Fir – <i>Psuedotsuga menziesii</i> ; d. Corsican Pine – <i>Pinus nigra</i>; e. Larch – <i>Larix spp</i>; f. Mountain Pine – <i>Pinus uncinata</i> ⁴⁸ g. Sycamore – <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ; h. Alder – <i>Alnus spp</i> ; i. <u>Crack Willow (<i>Salix fragilis spp</i>) and Grey Willow (<i>Salix cinerea spp</i>.)</u> Willows adjacent to rivers – <i>Salix spp</i> ⁴⁹ .	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A
Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL⁵⁰	Activity status: NC Where: 2. <u>planting of any of the following tree species:</u> a. <u>Lodgepole Pine – <i>Pinus contorta</i>;</u> b. <u>Scots Pine – <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>;</u> c. <u>Corsican Pine – <i>Pinus nigra</i>;</u> d. <u>Larch – <i>Larix spp</i>;</u> e. <u>Mountain Pine – <i>Pinus uncinata</i>;</u> ⁵¹	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A⁵²
Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF	Activity status: NC Where: 3. planting of any of the following tree species: a. Lodgepole Pine – <i>Pinus contorta</i> ; b. Scots Pine – <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> ; c. Douglas Fir – <i>Psuedotsuga menziesii</i> ; d. Corsican Pine – <i>Pinus nigra</i> ; e. Larch – <i>Larix spp</i> ; f. Mountain Pine – <i>Pinus uncinata</i> ;	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A

⁴⁶ Consequential renumbering

⁴⁷ Department of Conservation [419.106]

⁴⁸ Department of Conservation [419.106]

⁴⁹ Environment Canterbury [316.118]

⁵⁰ Department of Conservation [419.106]

⁵¹ Department of Conservation [419.106]

⁵² Department of Conservation [419.106]

	<p>g. Sycamore – <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>;</p> <p>h. Alder – <i>Alnus spp</i>;</p> <p>i. <u>Crack Willow (<i>Salix fragilis spp</i>) and Grey Willow (<i>Salix cinerea spp</i>.) Willows adjacent to rivers – <i>Salix spp.</i></u>⁵³</p>	
NFL-R12 ⁵⁴	Mining activity and quarrying activities ⁵⁵	
<p>Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL⁵⁶</p>	Activity status: NC ⁵⁷	<p>Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A⁵⁸</p>
NFL-R13 ⁵⁹	<u>Plantation Commercial</u> forestry	
<p><u>Ashley River /</u> <u>Rakahuri SAL</u>⁶⁰</p>	<p><u>Activity status: CON DIS</u></p> <p><u>Matters of control are restricted to:</u></p> <p><u>NFL-MC1 – The effects on the visual amenity values of the SAL, including any future effects from plantation forestry activities.</u></p>	<p><u>Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A</u></p>
<p>Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek</p>	Activity status: NC	Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A

⁵³ Environment Canterbury [316.118]

⁵⁴ Consequential reordering

⁵⁵ Consequential reordering

⁵⁶ Consequential reordering

⁵⁷ Consequential reordering

⁵⁸ Consequential reordering

⁵⁹ Consequential renumbering

⁶⁰ Ngai Tahu [219.5]

Estuary ONF Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL		
<u>NFL-R123</u> ⁶¹	<u>Mining activity and quarrying activities</u> ⁶²	
<u>Ashley River / Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary ONF Waimakariri River ONF Puketeraki Range & Oxford Foothills ONL</u> <u>Ashley River / Rakahuri SAL</u> ⁶³	<u>Activity status: NC</u> ⁶⁴ <u>Activity Status: DIS</u> ⁶⁵	<u>Activity status when compliance not achieved: N/A</u> ⁶⁶

Natural Features and Landscapes Standards

How to interpret and apply the standards

The standards within the NFL Chapter do not apply to energy and infrastructure activities.⁶⁷

NFL-S1 Building and structures reflectivity	
<p>1. Exterior building materials which, when graded using the British Standard BS5252:1976 Framework for Colour Co-ordination for Building Purposes, meet the following standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. where the materials are not used for a roof cladding, they are of a colour which has a reflectivity value of a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 60% for greyness groups A or B; ii. 40% for greyness group C; b. where the materials are used for a roof cladding, they are of a colour which has 	<p>Activity status when compliance not achieved: DIS</p>

⁶¹ Consequential reordering

⁶² Consequential reordering

⁶³ Consequential reordering

⁶⁴ Consequential reordering

⁶⁵ Fulton Hogan Ltd [41.25 and 41.26]

⁶⁶ Consequential reordering

⁶⁷ Transpower [195.84] and Chorus, Spark and Vodafone [62.50 and 62.51]

a reflectivity value of a maximum of 40% for greyness groups A, B or C.	
Exemptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFL-S1 (1) does not apply to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>post and rail or wire fences which are more than 75% visually transparent;</u>⁶⁸ natural timber as exterior building materials; or windows, window frames, bargeboards, stormwater guttering, downpipes or doors which may be of any colour. 	
NFL-S2 Building coverage	
1. Building coverage shall be a maximum of 5% of the site area within the ONL, ONF or SAL overlay.	Activity status when compliance not achieved: DIS

Advice Notes⁶⁹

<u>NFL-AN1</u> ⁷⁰	<u>Activities in, on, under or over the beds of lakes and rivers are managed by the Regional Council and as such the rules in this chapter do not apply to these areas. However, activities on the surface of water are managed within the District Plan.</u> ⁷¹
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Matters of Discretion

NFL-MD1	New buildings and structures, additions to buildings, <u>cycleways, walkways,</u>⁷² and access tracks <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which the proposal is consistent with maintaining, protecting or enhancing the qualities of the outstanding or significant natural feature and/or landscape, including natural character qualities, as identified in NFL-APP1. The extent to which the proposal will detract from the naturalness and openness of the landscape. The extent to which the proposal recognises the context and values of historic and cultural significance and the relationship, culture and traditions of Ngāi Tahu. The extent to which the proposal integrates into the landscape and the appropriateness of the scale, form, design and finish (materials and colours) proposed and mitigation measures such as planting. This shall include consideration of any adverse effects of reflectivity, glare and light spill. The proximity and extent to which the proposal is visible from public places and roads (including unformed legal roads), ease of accessibility to that place, and the significance of the view point. The extent to which natural elements such as landforms and vegetation within the site mitigate the visibility of the proposal. The extent to which the proposal has any adverse effects on important ridgelines. The extent to which the proposal will result in adverse cumulative effects. The extent to which the proposal will result in significant loss of indigenous vegetation and biodiversity.
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⁶⁸ Federated Farmers [414.149]

⁶⁹ Environment Canterbury [316.11 & 316.119]

⁷⁰ Environment Canterbury [316.11 & 316.119]

⁷¹ Environment Canterbury [316.11 & 316.119]

⁷² Forest and Bird [192.77]

	<p>10. The extent to which the proposal supports the continuation of farming activities in the rural area.</p> <p>11. Whether the proposal is connected to reticulated water and the need to provide water supply (for firefighting), and the ability to integrate water tanks into the landscape and mitigate any adverse visual effects.</p> <p>12. For new access tracks, whether the track supports conservation activities, farming, recreation activities or rural tourism activities and the ability to integrate with the landscape, follow natural contours and mitigate any adverse effects.</p> <p>13. The extent to which the proposal has functional need or operational need for its location.</p>
NFL-MD2	<p>Motorised activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extent of any adverse effects on the identified feature and/or landscape, including natural character qualities as identified in NFL-APP1, and natural character values in the coastal environment, including the extent to which the proposal is consistent with maintaining their qualities. 2. Any adverse effects on adjoining outstanding or significant natural features or landscapes or natural character in the coastal environment, and whether there is a sufficient separation to avoid detracting from the qualities of those areas. 3. The extent to which the nature, scale, intensity and location of the proposed activity will adversely affect indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems taking into account: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. any loss of, or effects on, indigenous vegetation or habitats of indigenous fauna, including wetlands, ecological corridors and linkages; b. indigenous ecosystem integrity and function; c. where relevant, any effects on areas of significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna in identified SNAs; and d. where relevant, any effects on indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in the coastal environment. 4. The extent to which the proposal recognises the context and values of historic and cultural significance and the relationship, culture and traditions of Ngāi Tahu. 5. The proximity and extent to which the activity is visible from or causes nuisance on public places and roads (including unformed legal roads), ease of accessibility to that place, and the significance of the view point. 6. The extent to which the proposal will result in adverse cumulative effects.

Appendix

NFL-APP1 - Outstanding and Significant Landscapes and Features - Values and Threats

Waimakariri River - Outstanding Natural Features

	Landscape Values	Rating
Biophysical	<p>The river is a large scale functioning alluvial system which is a formative element that created the Canterbury Plains (movement of gravel loads from the mountains, river channels, silts and gravels that underlie the plains and source of loess).</p> <p>Braided rivers are rare (globally) and the Waimakariri is recognised as one of the best examples of its kind in New Zealand.</p> <p>Braided rivers are 'naturally uncommon ecosystems' and have a threat status of 'endangered'. The riverbed provides significant indigenous and migratory bird habitat particularly at the river mouth.</p> <p>Valuable bird and fish habitat is associated with the braided river. Salmon and trout migrate to the headwaters of the river to complete their breeding cycle.</p>	Very High

Sensory	<p>The wide braided gravel river bed traversing through the Canterbury plains is an iconic feature of the Waimakariri District and the Canterbury Plains.</p> <p>The Waimakariri Gorge (upper and lower) is a highly legible landscape feature, revealing the underlying geology with high aesthetic value. Beyond the gorge, the gravel banks and old river terraces reveal the formation of the plains.</p> <p>Sinuuous braided patterning of the gravel riverbed contrasts with the geometric patchwork of the plains. The contrast and patterning of the braided river channels are a highly memorable feature of the area.</p> <p>The river creates a visual and physical connection from the mountains to the sea. The braided river system is dynamic and constantly changing through variability in flow over the seasons with freshes, low flows and flood events. High flood flows are particularly dramatic and memorable.</p>	High
Associative	<p>The Waimakariri River and its tributaries are identified as part of Tūranga Tūpuna and Ngā Wai by Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri in the District Plan.</p> <p>Historically, the river was an important travel route for Māori which linked the east and west coasts of the South Island with numerous habitation sites along the river boundary. It was also an important mahinga kai and resource gathering area for mana whenua.</p> <p>The sinuous braided pattern of the river has been recognised as a distinctive signature characteristic of the plains and has inspired both literature and art.</p> <p>The Waimakariri River Regional Park offers recreational opportunities and environmental enhancement on the margins of the lower reaches of the river.</p> <p>The river and its margins provide for many recreational activities, including jet boating, kayaking, rafting, fishing, and hunting, cycling and walking. Tourist jet boats operate in the picturesque upper gorge.</p> <p>Establishing bridges across the Waimakariri River, and controlling the hazard from flooding were two of the key endeavours of early engineers to 'control' the river.</p>	High
Likely Threats	<p>Earthworks and quarrying activities (gravel extraction, encroachment of farming practices);</p> <p>Buildings, structures and utilities (including irrigation canals, hydro dams, etc.);</p> <p>Forestry and shelterbelts encroachment into the riverbed;</p> <p>Native vegetation clearance;</p> <p>Further encroachment into the river corridor of activities on adjacent land;</p> <p>Activities that threaten the ecological and habitat values;</p> <p>Flood control measures, including groynes, stop banks and planting that channelises the braided river bed; and</p> <p>Spread of weeds across the river bed and banks, including associated habitat loss.</p>	

Puketeraki Range and Oxford Foothills - Outstanding Natural Landscape

	Landscape Values	Rating
Biophysical	<p>The steep Puketeraki Ranges support a diverse range of indigenous habitats, including snow tussock, subalpine scrub, alpine rockfield vegetation above 1200m and induced short tussock grassland, matagouri scrubland, scree slopes and pockets of remnant beech forest at lower elevations.</p> <p>Extensive areas of indigenous beech forest and remnant podocarp forest are the dominant vegetation cover on the slopes, gullies and hilltops of the Oxford Foothills including the Oxford Forest and Mt Thomas Forest conservation areas.</p> <p>The Nationally Significant Okuku Triassic Monotis locality Geo-preservation site lies in the North West area of the Okuku Range and Lees Pass.</p> <p>The Nationally Significant Bullock Creek debris flow Geo-preservation site lies at the foot of Mt Thomas, and is a very good example of an eroding gully, debris flow and debris flow fan.</p>	Very High

Sensory	<p>The hill and mountain landforms have a dominant physical presence in the surrounding area of the upper plains and Lees Valley.</p> <p>The lush dense forested slopes of the Oxford foothills strongly contrast with the flat pastured plains and provide a rich dark coloured background to the local areas of View Hill, Oxford and Ashley Gorge/ Glentui.</p> <p>Many incised rivers and streams dissect the landforms with steep sided gullies, and rocky/gravel beds forming the upper part of the river catchments.</p> <p>Ashley Gorge is a significant and legible feature of the area where the river cuts through the Oxford foothills connecting the upper catchment/ Lees Valley and the plains.</p> <p>The hills and mountains enclose Lees Valley with their dominant physical and scenic presence, and their seasonally changing appearance is a signature feature of the valley. The enclosing upper slopes, ridgelines and skylines in particular are a highly visible and prominent feature of the valley.</p> <p>The hills and mountains have a remote and wild character with a dominance of indigenous vegetation and are valued for their high natural values.</p> <p>The Puketeraki Ranges are legible landforms in the upper Waimakariri River valley, formed and sculpted by glaciers, streams, rivers and erosion, they continue to be dynamic landforms.</p> <p>High level of openness and naturalness in the ranges and western side of the Oxford hills with limited built modification, (roads, fences and buildings).</p> <p>Transient values of the Norwest arch over the silhouetted hills and mountains.</p> <p>Seasonal change of the mountainous landscape including snow covered ridges and peaks to dry, golden tussock lands, as well as dramatic weather changes and cloud formations are key ephemeral values. Seasonal change of the trees also occurs within the Ashley Gorge picnic area.</p> <p>The high ranges are frequently covered in snow during the winter months and at other times of the year, which are visible from the plains.</p>	High
Associative	<p>The mountains, indigenous forest, Ashley River/ Rakahuri and its tributaries, are identified as part of a Tūrangā Tūpuna by Ngāi Tūāhuriri in the District Plan. Puketeraki and Tawera maunga are identified as Wāhi Tapu.</p> <p>Historically the forests of the foothills and upper plains were a source of abundant food including kiore (rat) for Ngāi Tūāhuriri.</p> <p>The Oxford foothills have a strong timber milling heritage. By the mid-1870s 11 sawmills were operating in the area, milling the indigenous timber and leading to the establishment of Oxford township. Some historical tracks and structures associated with logging operations are still evident in the foothills, such as those found around the Wharfdale Track area.</p> <p>The hills and ranges have high recreational values with a well-used track and hut network. The tracks provide good access to the area for walkers, mountain bikes, trampers and hunters in vicinity of the populated plains.</p> <p>The Ashley Gorge and Glentui recreation areas have high amenity and recreational values as well-known destinations, popular for picnicking, swimming, canoeing, rafting, fishing and provide walking access to the forests and hills beyond.</p> <p>The public conservation land at Oxford Forest and the Mt Thomas Forest Conservation area are within this Outstanding Natural Landscape.</p> <p>The Oxford Hills provide backdrop to the district and local Oxford communities. With well recognised and characteristic silhouettes and skylines which include the prominent highpoints of Mt Oxford, Mt Richardson and Mt Thomas.</p>	High
Likely Threats	<p>Change in farming practices extend to higher elevations;</p> <p>Earthworks and quarrying activities, track formation;</p> <p>Prominent buildings and structures;</p> <p>Subdivision and associated fencing, planting, buildings;</p> <p>Utilities particularly on elevated locations including wind farms and towers;</p> <p>Production plantations and shelterbelts;</p> <p>Native vegetation clearance;</p> <p>New or changing forms of recreation that physically impact on vegetation or landforms, or disrupt the remote and quiet nature of the hills and ranges.</p>	

Ashley River/Rakahuri Saltwater Creek Estuary - Outstanding Natural Feature

	Landscape Values	Rating
Biophysical	<p>Landscape values include the combined estuaries of Saltwater Creek and Ashley River/Rakahuri and their associated mud banks, mud flats and open brackish water. The coastal side of the estuary, adjoining Pegasus Bay is made up of a sandy beach and dunes which forms Ashworth Spit and ponds behind the spit.</p> <p>The estuary is a Regionally Significant barrier-enclosed estuary system. It is identified as a geo-preservation site which comprises of one of the most complex river mouths on the Canterbury coast, indicating lateral channel instability.</p> <p>The estuary system has very high biophysical values and remains one of the least modified estuary systems in Canterbury. It includes a relatively extensive, intact and diverse sequence of estuarine vegetation communities in its lower reaches.</p> <p>The estuary has been identified as an ecological hotspot with extensive areas of salt marsh with a variety of specialised native plant species occurring along the upper and lower zones. The estuary mudflats and Ashworth Spit and ponds provide internationally significant habitat for migratory wading birds (like the bar-tailed godwit/kūaka), and provides high value wetland habitat for a variety of fish species (īnanga/whitebait, eels, kōaro, flounder/pātiki, common smelt/paraki, torrentfish/piripiripōhatu and bullies/kōkopu). The estuary is also a feeding and resting zone for the riverbed nesting birds, and host to over 90 recorded species, including the bar-tailed godwit/kūaka.</p> <p>The RPS lists the overall ecological significance ranking of High.</p> <p>The Ashley River/ Rakahuri and Saltwater Creek Estuarine areas are recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a wetland of 'international significance'.</p>	Very High
Sensory	<p>The estuary mudflats, channels and saltmarshes and the sandspit, foredunes beach and ponds and coastal edge are unmodified and retain a very high level of legibility, as to their formation by coastal processes and the movement of sediments and gravels down the river/stream.</p> <p>The natural forms and patterns of the landforms, vegetation and tidal movements give the area a high degree of naturalness that is apparent, a sense of remoteness and tranquillity through the lack of modification is apparent.</p> <p>The visual coherence of the estuary, sandspit, beach and vegetation is high due the lack of modification.</p> <p>Experienced within its boundaries the estuary can have a high degree of memorability depending on the tides and seasonal colour contrast of the vegetation, with low angle light of sunrise and sunset reflecting off the mudflats and tidal waters the most intense.</p> <p>Transient values of the estuary are very high reflecting the dynamic coast environment with its constant changes of tide, river flow, wind, light reflection on the water, presence of migratory birds and fish.</p>	Very High
Associative	<p>The Ashley River/Rakahuri, its tributaries and estuary, and the coastline are areas identified as part of Ngā Wai and Tūranga Tūpuna by Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga in the District Plan.</p> <p>The estuary is an important area to mana whenua for mahinga kai particularly for īnanga/whitebait, flounder/pātiki and eel.</p> <p>Some evidence of pre-1769 occupation is recorded at an archaeological site on the northern edge of the Ashley River/ Rakahuri Saltwater Lagoon confluence, which contains moa bones, adzes and post holes.</p> <p>The estuary, spit and beach are popular recreational destinations for swimming, fishing, whitebaiting, bird watching and kayaking. Several road ends provide a variety of locations to access the area and walking, cycling extend the access around the margins.</p>	High

Likely Threats	<p>Earthworks in the estuary margin; Flood management structures; Damage to the estuary, its margins and associated vegetation from Motorised vehicles, including 4x4s; quad bikes; side by sides; and motorbikes; or⁷³ Farming practices⁷⁴; Quarrying activities; Buildings and structures on estuary margins; Utilities (such as powerlines stormwater pipes/channels); Forestry and shelterbelts; Native vegetation clearance.</p>	
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Ashley River/Rakahuri - Significant Amenity Landscape

	Landscape Values	Rating
Biophysical	<p>Holocene loose gravel river deposits formed from sand, silt and clay. The Ashley River/ Rakahuri is a rare braided river system unique to New Zealand and the Canterbury Plains. Braided rivers are 'naturally uncommon ecosystems' and have a threat status of 'endangered'. The river is also one of the steepest braided rivers in New Zealand which transports large volumes of sediment during flooding events. The braided river bed is highly managed and is constrained along both banks for most of its length by plantings and stop banks to contain flood waters. Vegetation predominantly consists of willow/poplar species along with gorse and broom. Patches of non-indigenous forest are also scattered along the river bank between the Cones Road bridge north of Rangiora to the Ashley Gorge. Rare pockets of native vegetation are also present including species such as common broom (<i>Carmichaelia robusta</i>), korokio (<i>Corokia cotoneaster</i>), mingimingi (<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>), kōwhai (<i>Sophora microphylla</i>) in drier areas, and pūkio (<i>Carex secta</i>), harakeke (<i>Phormium tenax</i>), and karamū (<i>Coprosma robusta</i>). Highly valued for the native endangered and threatened bird species which nest in the river shingle. Species include the nationally vulnerable wrybill/ngutu pare (<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>), and banded dotterel/pohowera (<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>), the nationally endangered black fronted tern/tarapirohe (<i>Chlidonias albobriatus</i>), the declining white fronted tern/tara (<i>Sterna striata</i>), pied stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>), and the nationally critical black billed gull/tarāpunga (<i>Larus bulleri</i>). In the lower reaches of the park wet areas inside the stopbank host established populations of native wetland species including sedges and wetland grasses. Raupo Berm in Lower Ashley is a good example of historic backwaters containing remnant sedges. Important habitat for native and exotic fish species. Pockets of remnant vegetation in the Lower Ashley provide important īnanga/whitebait spawning sites.</p>	Moderate-High
Sensory	<p>Highly legible braided river which is expressive of its alluvial formative processes, changing form with each flood, and movement of gravel loads from the mountains to the sea. Memorable landscape feature and landmark for the local communities of Rangiora, Ashley, Oxford, and Glentui, as forms a physical barrier across this part of the plains. The river's presence is marked by river itself and the continuous bands of tall poplar along its banks. Valued by the community for its wilderness and natural environment and sounds, sights and smells of the river environment.</p>	High

⁷³ Forest and Bird [192.78]

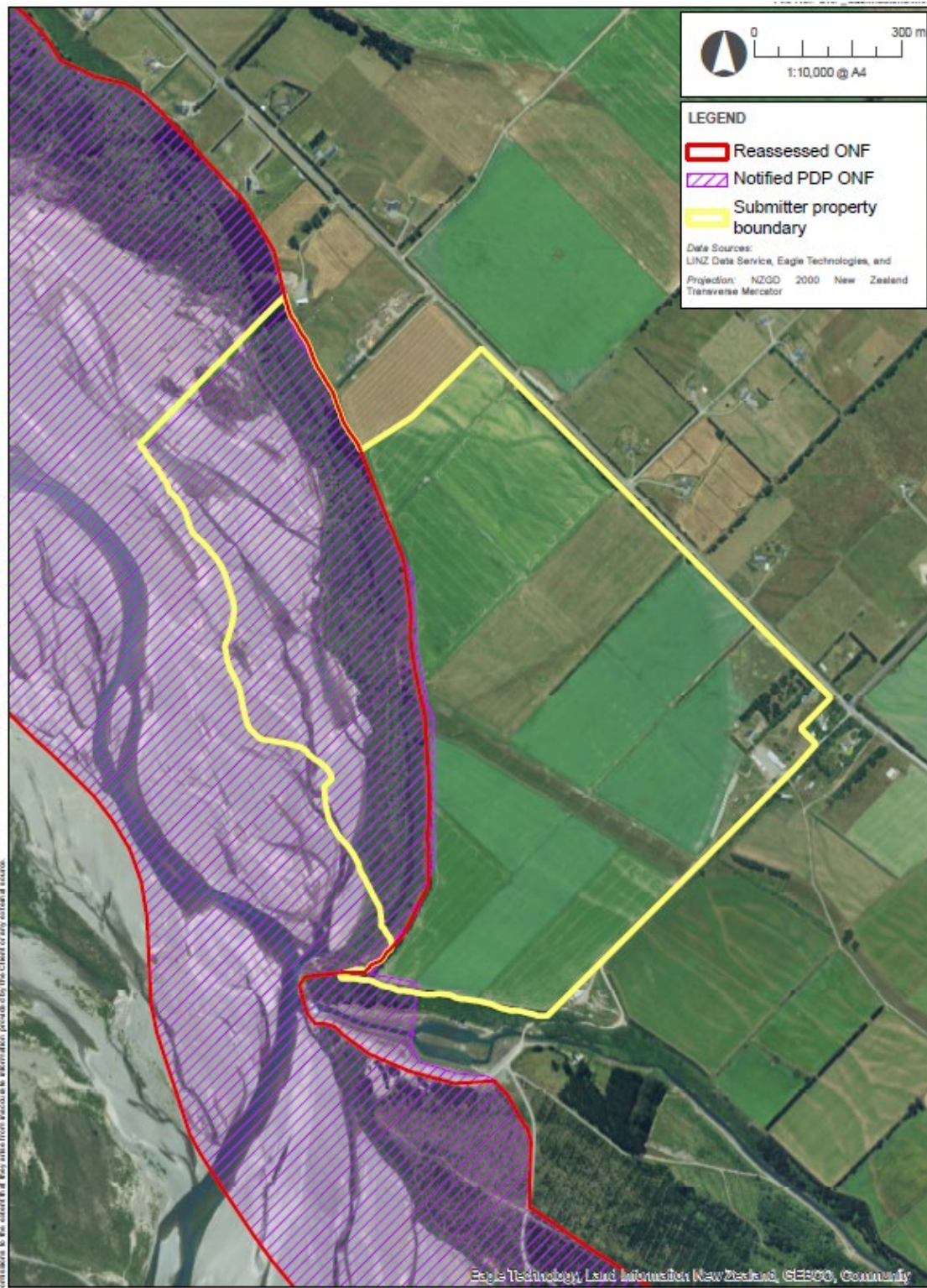
⁷⁴ Forest and Bird [192.78]

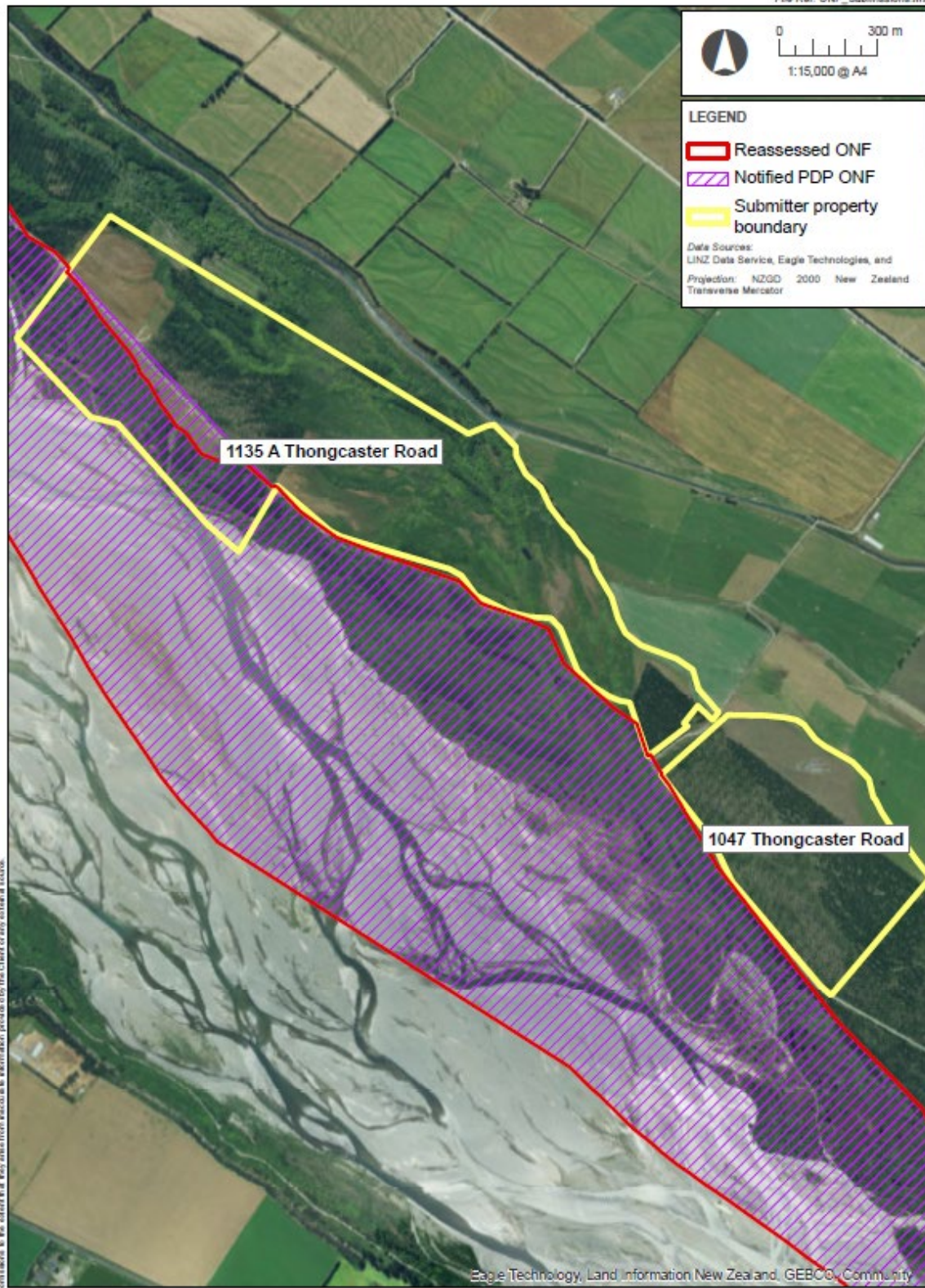
	<p>Distinctive braided pattern of gravel beds and river channels unique to New Zealand and the Canterbury Plains.</p> <p>The Ashley River forms a clear connection between the foothills of the Southern Alps and the Pegasus Bay.</p> <p>Transient values include flooding or a “fresh” when the water floods the river bed bank to bank changing the channel structure.</p> <p>Other values include the dry river bed during the summer months, seasonal bird habitat, seasonal change of willows and change in the braid patterns following each flood.</p>	
Associative	<p>The river corridor is highly valued by the community for its recreational, open space and biodiversity values and is recognised as such by its status as the Ashley Rakahuri Regional Park extending from the Okuku River confluence downstream to the Ashley Estuary.</p> <p>Activities include walking, cycling, and fishing and picnic and camping facilities are also available. Popular trails include the Taranaki Walkway near the mouth of the river and the Mike Kean walkway. Game bird shooting is also popular and permitted mostly to the west of the Cones Road bridge.</p> <p>Organisations such as Riding for the Disabled, and the North Canterbury BMX Club are present on the south of the Ashley River/Rakahuri near the Cones Road bridge.</p> <p>The Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare group is a community led organisation which aims to protect the ecological state of the Ashley River/ Rakahuri. The group traps pests in the river and works with other commercial and recreational users of the river to ensure the protection of the river's health.</p> <p>Ngāi Tūāhuriri have a significant association to the Rakahuri and wider Waimakariri area based on historical occupation and Mahinga Kai.</p> <p>Rakahuri translates to ‘sky turned around’ and was added as a dual name for the Nga Wai in 1998 under the Ngai Tahu Claims Act.</p> <p>Mahinga Kai for Ngāi Tūāhuriri. The Nga Wai was a valuable source for cabbage tree root, bracken fernroot, tuna, matamoe, and panako. Prior to the Nga Wai's development the lower tributaries of the Ashley River/ Rakahuri were an important habitat for inanga (whitebait), waikōura (freshwater crayfish), and tuna (eels). Exotic fish species such as chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and brown trout can still be caught between October and April each year. Because of its significance, the Ashley River/Rakahuri is considered a Ngā Wai and Tūranga Tūpuna under the District Plan.</p> <p>Kaiapoi Pa was accessed by waka from the Ashley River/ Rakahuri.</p> <p>Historical flood events are part of the local history with some of the river's worst floods occurring during the early to mid-20th century.</p>	High
Likely Threats	<p>Impact of gravel extraction within the river bed, on bird habitat;</p> <p>Further encroachment into the river corridor and margins by activities on adjacent land e.g. agriculture;</p> <p>Flood management structures;</p> <p>Spreading of weed across the river bed;</p> <p>Buildings and other forms of infrastructure;</p> <p>Four-wheel drive access and damage;</p> <p>Water extraction.</p>	

Related planning map amendments

Natural Features and Landscapes overlay amendments to Waimakariri River ONF boundary on 1453, 1135A, 1047 Thongcaster Road and 369 Waimakariri Gorge Road, as shown below.

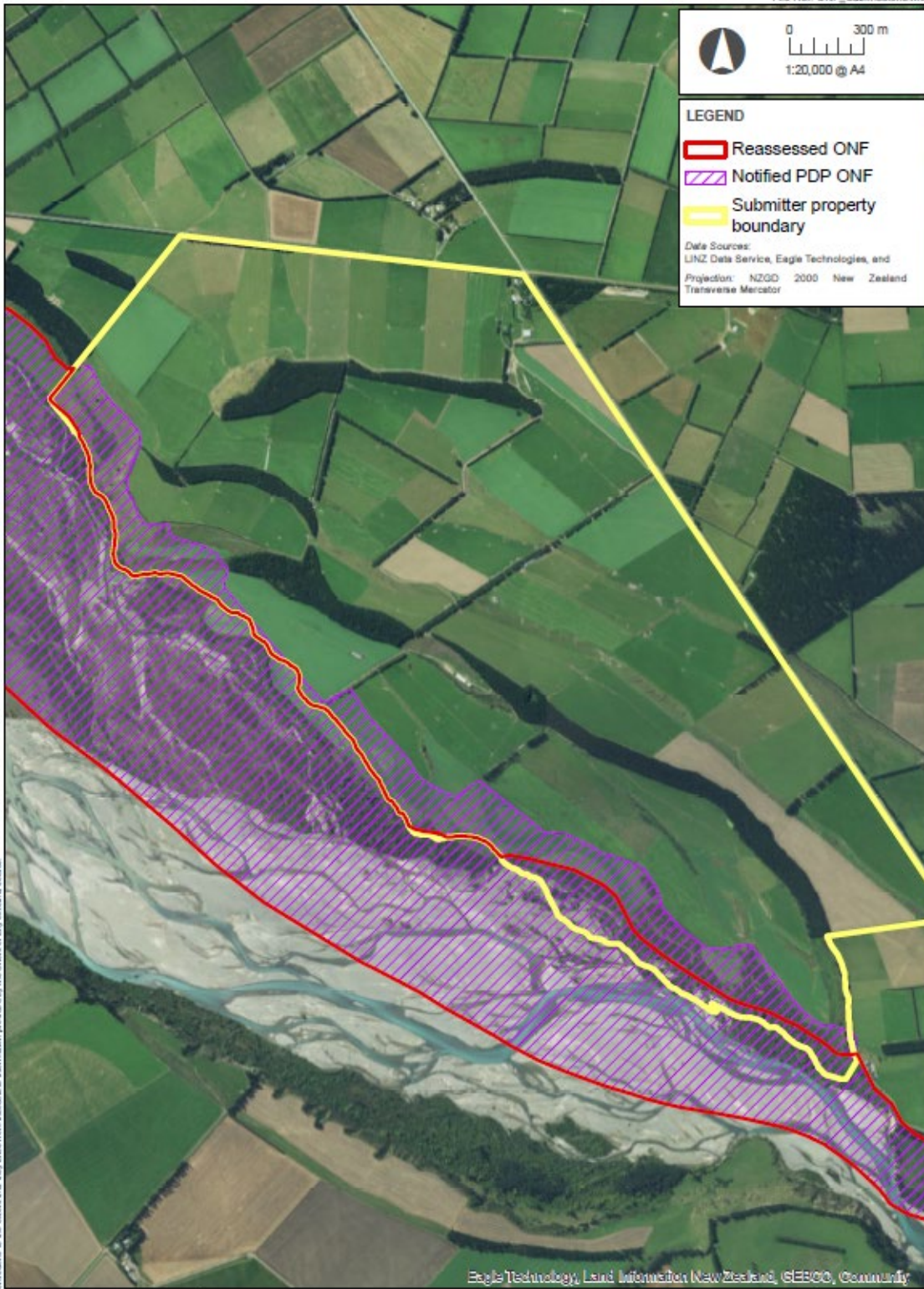
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Related definition amendments

~~PLANTATION-COMMERCIAL~~ FORESTRY

has the same meaning as in the NES~~CFPF and includes forestry~~⁷⁵ (as set out below):

means exotic continuous-cover forestry or plantation forestry

The NESCF defines 'exotic continuous-cover forest' or 'exotic continuous-cover forestry' as:

(a) means a forest that is deliberately established for commercial purposes, being at least 1 ha of continuous forest cover of exotic forest species that has been planted and—

(i) will not be harvested or replanted; or

(ii) is intended to be used for low-intensity harvesting or replanted; and

(b) includes all associated forestry infrastructure; but

(c) does not include—

(i) a shelter belt of forest species, where the tree crown cover has, or is likely to have, an average width of less than 30 m; or

(ii) forest species in urban areas; or

(iii) nurseries and seed orchards; or

(iv) trees grown for fruit or nuts; or

(v) long-term ecological restoration planting of indigenous forest species; or

(vi) willows and poplars space planted for soil conservation purposes

The NESCF defines 'plantation forestry' as:

means a forest deliberately established for commercial purposes, being—

(a) at least 1 ha of continuous forest cover of forest species that has been planted and has or will be harvested or replanted; and

⁷⁵ Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc. [414.14]

(b) includes all associated forestry infrastructure; but

(c) does not include—

(i) a shelter belt of forest species, where the tree crown cover has, or is likely to have, an average width of less than 30 m; or

(ii) forest species in urban areas; or

(iii) nurseries and seed orchards; or

(iv) trees grown for fruit or nuts; or

(v) long-term ecological restoration planting of forest species; or

(vi) willows and poplars space planted for soil conservation purposes.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc. [414.14] and s44 RMA