

Chapter 9 Natural and Cultural Heritage

9.1 Indigenous Biodiversity and Ecosystems

9.1.1 Introduction

This introduction is to assist the lay reader to understand how this sub-chapter works and what it applies to. It is not an aid to interpretation in a legal sense.

This sub-chapter establishes the framework for the identification, assessment, management and protection of areas of [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) within the [Christchurch District](#), along with the maintenance of [indigenous biodiversity](#) and ecosystems generally.

The involvement of landowners and their stewardship of the natural environment is essential to the maintenance of [indigenous biodiversity](#) and the protection of areas of [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#). The role of landowners, particularly those on private land, is recognised throughout this sub-chapter which emphasises a collaborative approach between the [Council](#) and landowners.

A vital starting point for maintaining and protecting [indigenous biodiversity](#) is to improve our understanding of what ecological values exist in the [Christchurch District](#), where and how significant they are in terms of the criteria specified in the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement. This involves an assessment of secondary information and undertaking ecological surveys on site.

There are different levels of existing [indigenous biodiversity](#), risks, threats and landowner commitment to conservation within the [Christchurch District](#). This is reflected in this sub-chapter. In the Low Plains Ecological District, there is less than 1% of original [indigenous vegetation](#) remaining and almost all known remaining areas within the District have been listed as Sites of Ecological Significance in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1. It is important that these Sites of Ecological Significance are managed and protected. There are also many freshwater areas within the Low Plains Ecological District with significant ecological values based around their in-stream/aquatic values and [wetland](#) areas, which will mainly be managed through the [water body setback](#) provisions in Chapter 6.

On [Banks Peninsula](#) and the Port Hills there are more extensive areas of [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in the form of remnant or second growth vegetation, which are often an integral part of rural properties. Rural landowners on [Banks Peninsula](#) have demonstrated that, with appropriate land management practices, [indigenous vegetation](#) can be protected and increased to halt the decline in the quality and quantity of [indigenous biodiversity](#). [Banks Peninsula](#) landowners are committed to active management of [indigenous biodiversity](#) through voluntary mechanisms such as covenants.

The provisions for [Banks Peninsula](#) and the Port Hills recognise this commitment from landowners and the need to ensure reasonable use of land and flexibility to meet changing needs. This is achieved by recognising existing [farming](#) activities, collaborating with landowners and providing an option to develop a Farm Biodiversity Plan to manage [indigenous biodiversity](#) values, including [farming](#) activities involving clearance.

The effects of activities and development on areas or habitats listed as Sites of Ecological Significance in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, and other areas containing potentially significant vegetation and habitat listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6, will be controlled through provisions managing the clearance of [indigenous vegetation](#). Chapter 6 manages activities within [water body setbacks](#) while Chapter 8 manages [subdivision](#) and [earthworks](#) where a Site of Ecological Significance is involved. Chapter 8 and Chapter 17 encourage protection of areas of [indigenous biodiversity](#) through provisions for [subdivision](#) and development.

The provisions in this chapter give effect to the Chapter 3 Strategic Directions Objectives.

9.1.2 Objectives and policies

9.1.2.1 Objective – Protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna

- a. Areas of [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 are protected so as to ensure there is [no net loss](#) of [indigenous biodiversity](#).

9.1.2.2 Objective – Maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity

- a. The [Christchurch District](#)'s [indigenous biodiversity](#) is maintained and enhanced.

9.1.2.3 Policy – Identification and assessment of sites

- a. Recognise that the Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 do not represent a comprehensive list of sites that are of significance for [indigenous biodiversity](#) within the [Christchurch District](#); and undertake further work with landowners, Ngāi Tahu, Department of Conservation, Canterbury Regional Council, conservation groups and other stakeholders to identify and assess additional areas of [indigenous vegetation](#) or habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) that may be of significance.
- b. Prioritise the assessment of the sites listed in Schedule B of Appendix 9.1.6.1 for potential listing in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1. Other sites of [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) will be assessed over time to identify their potential for significance, taking into account the following factors:
 - i. ecological values, determined by the results of literature searches and / or expert advice;
 - ii. the level of existing legal protection;
 - iii. threats to ecological values;
 - iv. whether the site has been identified as a Recommended Area for Protection in the surveys undertaken by Hugh Wilson (1992) for the Department of Conservation Protected Natural Areas Programme;

- v. the national priorities for protection in Policy 9.3.2 of the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement; and
- vi. requests for assessments by landowners.

9.1.2.4 Policy – Determination of significance

- a. Properly informed by the assessment and identification of sites of [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in accordance with Policy 9.1.2.3 and an understanding of the relationship between the protection of areas and land use practices, the [Council](#) will determine whether those sites are significant, in accordance with the criteria in Canterbury Regional Policy Statement Policy 9.3 1 and Appendix 3, and warrant protection by listing in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1.

9.1.2.5 Policy – Mechanisms for the protection of indigenous biodiversity

- a. Recognise that the maintenance and protection of [indigenous biodiversity](#), including the Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, is dependent on landowner support and will be achieved through a number of mechanisms, including:
 - i. the listing of sites of [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1;
 - ii. the use of rules regulating the clearance of [indigenous vegetation](#) and the disturbance of indigenous habitats;
 - iii. legal protection by way of covenants; and
 - iv. landowner commitment to conservation and stewardship of the natural environment, including through the use of Farm Biodiversity Plans;

and that the most appropriate mechanism may vary depending on the [indigenous biodiversity](#) and use of the particular [site](#).

9.1.2.6 Policy – Mechanisms for the management and protection of other indigenous vegetation and habitats

- a. Recognise that the [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types on [Banks Peninsula](#) and the Port Hills listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 may be of ecological significance in the [Christchurch District](#) by providing for their management and protection through:
 - i. the [Council](#) giving written notice to those landowners where they consider that a property may contain the [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6, and at the size and scale identified in Appendix 9.1.6.6;
 - ii. the [Council](#) filing its written notice on the property file held for the relevant property; and
 - iii. the use of rules to manage any potential adverse effects of the clearance or disturbance of the identified [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 for the notified properties.

9.1.2.7 Policy – Plan change

- a. The [Council](#) will initiate a plan change within six years of this Plan becoming operative to:
 - i. include any other sites of [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) assessed as being significant and warranting protection, by amending and updating Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1;
 - ii. remove those sites listed in Schedule B of Appendix 9.1.6.1 that have been assessed for significance; and
 - iii. remove Appendix 9.1.6.6 and associated rules.

9.1.2.8 Policy – Protection and management of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1

- a. Recognise and protect the [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) within each site listed in the Sites of Ecological Significance in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 so as to ensure [no net loss](#) of [indigenous biodiversity](#) by:
 - i. avoiding the adverse effects of vegetation clearance and the disturbance of habitats as far as practicable; then
 - ii. remedying any adverse effects that cannot be avoided; then
 - iii. mitigating any adverse effects that cannot be remedied; and
 - iv. where there are any significant residual adverse effects on the [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) within the site, offsetting them in accordance with Policy 9.1.2.16.

9.1.2.9 Policy – Protection and management of other indigenous vegetation and habitats

- a. On [Banks Peninsula](#) and the Port Hills, outside Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, manage the clearance of [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and notified to landowners, by ensuring:
 - i. resource consent applications to clear [indigenous vegetation](#) or disturb habitat include an assessment of the [indigenous biodiversity](#) of the listed [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types on the [site](#), in order to inform the assessment of the potential effects of the activity; and
 - ii. adverse effects on [indigenous biodiversity](#) values and Ngāi Tahu values are managed to ensure [indigenous biodiversity](#) in the [Christchurch District](#) is maintained and enhanced.
- b. Avoid the clearance of mature and regenerating podocarp/hardwood and beech forest in the District.

9.1.2.10 Policy - Protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in the coastal environment

- a. Where Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 or [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and notified to landowners are located within the coastal environment, the protection of their [indigenous biodiversity](#) will be achieved by:
 - i. avoiding adverse effects on:
 - A. indigenous taxa that are listed as threatened or at risk in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists;
 - B. taxa that are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources as threatened;
 - C. indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types that are threatened in the coastal environment, or are naturally rare;
 - D. habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are naturally rare;
 - E. areas containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types; and
 - F. areas set aside for full or partial protection of [indigenous biodiversity](#) under other legislation; and
 - ii. avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on:
 - A. areas of predominantly [indigenous vegetation](#) in the coastal environment;
 - B. habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;
 - C. indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are only found in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal [wetlands](#), dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass and saltmarsh;
 - D. habitats of indigenous species in the coastal environment that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes;
 - E. habitats, including areas and routes, important to migratory species; and
 - F. ecological corridors, and areas important for linking or maintaining biological values identified under this policy.

9.1.2.11 Policy – Land management

- a. Provide for small-scale, low impact [indigenous vegetation clearance](#) where it will enable the continued use of land and the maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- b. Recognise that the locational, operational and technical requirements of new, or upgrades to, [utilities](#) or [network infrastructure](#) operated by [network utility operators](#) may necessitate the

removal of [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#), including within Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1.

9.1.2.12 Policy – Maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity

- a. Enable activities that maintain and enhance [indigenous biodiversity](#) including:
 - i. planting with appropriate indigenous species; and
 - ii. the removal or management of pest plant and animal species and for biosecurity works

9.1.2.13 Policy - Farm biodiversity plans

- a. Establish a collaborative approach with rural landowners/land managers through the development of Farm Biodiversity Plans that:
 - i. recognises and encourages the integrated management, maintenance and protection of [indigenous biodiversity](#), including Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, while also providing for the maintenance of [rural productive activities](#);
 - ii. recognises that there may need to be some clearance of [indigenous vegetation](#) as part of maintaining [rural productive activities](#); and
 - iii. achieves maintenance, and over time, the enhancement of [indigenous biodiversity](#).
- b. Farm Biodiversity Plans submitted as part of resource consent applications shall:
 - i. identify areas of [indigenous biodiversity](#) to be maintained, protected and, where appropriate, enhanced;
 - ii. adopt methods to minimise the clearance of previously uncleared areas and Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1;
 - iii. identify the measures that will be used to maintain, protect and, where appropriate, enhance [indigenous biodiversity](#);
 - iv. identify appropriate targets to measure progress in the maintenance, protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of [indigenous biodiversity](#); and
 - v. be flexible to adapt to changing needs of land use and [indigenous biodiversity](#) management.
- c. Promote the development of Farm Biodiversity Plans to landowners:
 - i. at the time of identification and assessment of potentially ecologically significant values;
 - ii. as good practice for maintaining and protecting [indigenous biodiversity](#);
 - iii. at a whole of property or catchment level, where appropriate; and
 - iv. where resource consent is required for [farming](#) involving clearance activities.

9.1.2.14 Policy - Cultural heritage and customary rights

- a. Ngāi Tahu Manawhenua cultural heritage values associated with [indigenous biodiversity](#) will be maintained and enhanced through:
 - i. providing for the [customary harvesting](#) of taonga species by Ngāi Tahu, while ensuring such harvest will maintain the [indigenous biodiversity](#) of the site;
 - ii. non-regulatory incentives and assistance; and
 - iii. providing for the planting of [indigenous vegetation](#) for the purpose of [customary harvesting](#).

9.1.2.15 Policy - Incentives and assistance to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity

- a. Work with nga rūnanga, landowners / land managers and the community to take an active role in maintaining and enhancing [indigenous biodiversity](#) by:
 - i. supporting and promoting the use of covenants, [reserves](#), management plans and community initiatives;
 - ii. providing a landowner support package with incentives, advice and guidance for managing Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 and any property where owners have been notified that their property may contain [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6;
 - iii. providing a range of other incentives to assist landowners / land managers in the protection, retention, regeneration and restoration of [indigenous biodiversity](#) and ecosystem functions;
 - iv. promoting the use of indigenous species in planting and [landscaping](#);
 - v. encouraging the planting of [indigenous vegetation](#) for the purpose of [customary harvesting](#) and enhancing habitats of [indigenous biodiversity](#);
 - vi. recognising and encouraging landowners / land managers committed to protection and management of [indigenous biodiversity](#); and
 - vii. continuing to work with the Banks Peninsula Ecological Steering Group or its successor.

9.1.2.16 Policy - Offsetting

- a. Allow for a [biodiversity offset](#) to be offered by a resource consent applicant where an activity will result in residual adverse effects on a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, or on [indigenous biodiversity](#) outside such Sites of Ecological Significance.
- b. Within a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, [biodiversity offset](#) will only be considered appropriate where adverse effects on the [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) within the site have been avoided, remedied or mitigated in accordance with the hierarchy established in Policy 9.1.2.8; and
 - i. the [biodiversity offset](#) is consistent with the framework detailed in Appendix 9.1.6.5; and

- ii. the [biodiversity offset](#) can achieve [no net loss](#) of [indigenous biodiversity](#):
 - A. preferably in the Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1; or
 - B. where that is not practicable, in the ecological district in which the Site of Ecological Significance in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 is located.

9.1.2.17 Policy – Monitoring

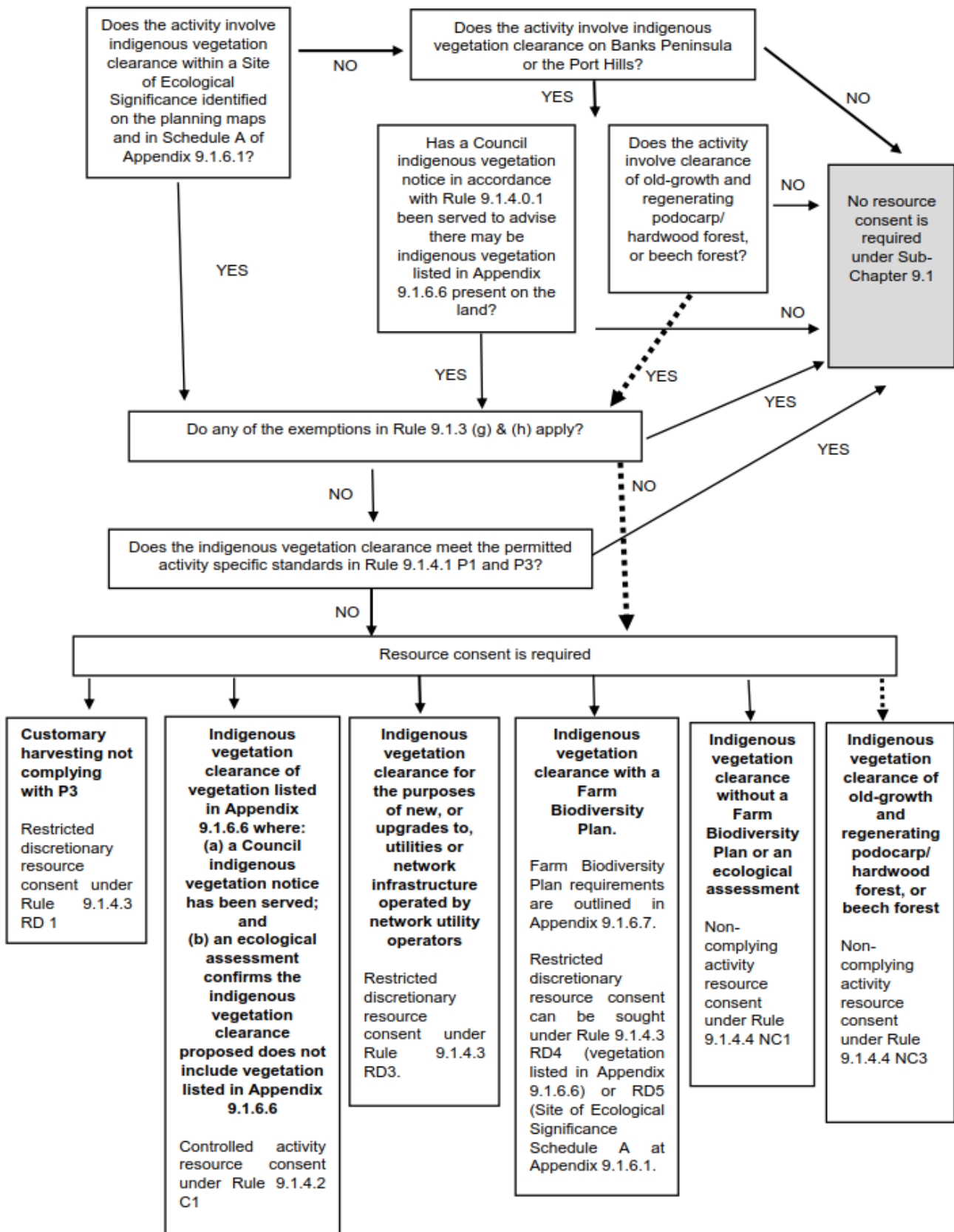
- a. The [Council](#) will undertake regular monitoring of the [indigenous biodiversity](#) in the ecological districts identified in Appendix 9.1.6.4 (within the [Christchurch District](#)) in order to measure whether [no net loss](#) of [indigenous biodiversity](#) is being achieved.

9.1.3 How to interpret and apply the rules

- a. Sites of Ecological Significance are identified on the planning maps, listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, and shown on the reference maps in Appendix 9.1.6.2 and 9.1.6.3. The rules that apply to Sites of Ecological Significance are contained in the Activity Status Tables (including Activity Specific Standards) in Rule 9.1.4.
- b. The rules contained in the activity status tables (including the activity specific standards) in Rule 9.1.4 also apply to the clearance of the [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat types listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 where the [Council](#) has served notice to the landowner.
- c. Where the rules refer to ecological districts, reference should be made to Appendix 9.1.6.4. In the case of the Low Plains Ecological District, which extends beyond the [Christchurch District](#), the rules apply only to the part of the ecological district that is located within the [Christchurch District](#).
- d. Activities covered by the rules in Sub-chapter 9.1 are also subject to the rules in the relevant zone chapters.
- e. The activity status tables and standards in the following chapters also apply to activities involving [indigenous vegetation clearance](#) in the [Christchurch District](#):
 - 5 Natural Hazards;
 - 6 General Rules and Procedures;
 - 7 Transport;
 - 8 Subdivision, Development and Earthworks;
 - 9 The other sub-chapters of Natural and Cultural Heritage;
 - 11 Utilities and Energy; and
 - 12 Hazardous Substances and Contaminated Land.
- f. The rules in Sub-chapter 9.1 do not apply to the Specific Purpose (Lyttelton Port) Zone.

- g. The rules in Sub-chapter 9.1 apply to utilities, except that:
 - i. Rule 9.1.4.3 RD3 does not apply to indigenous vegetation clearance for the purposes of minor upgrades to utilities provided for by Rule 11.4.1 P9 - P15.
 - ii. Rule 9.1.3 h. includes some exemptions for indigenous vegetation clearance for:
 - A. maintenance of existing access tracks for utilities;
 - B. protection of, and access to, existing electricity infrastructure; and
 - C. the replacement, repair, maintenance and minor upgrading of existing utilities.
- h. The following activities are exempt from the Rule 9.1.4 for the purpose of indigenous vegetation clearance:
 - i. maintenance activities within 2 metres either side of an existing access track for a utility or network infrastructure operated by a network utility operator;
 - ii. park management activities in any Open Space Zone;
 - iii. flood protection or drainage works undertaken or authorised by the Council or the Canterbury Regional Council, in accordance with the appropriate Flood and Drainage bylaw;
 - iv. maintenance of existing roads within existing road corridors;
 - v. removal for the purposes of the protection of, and access to, existing electricity infrastructure; and
 - vi. associated with replacement, repair, maintenance and minor upgrading of an existing utility in accordance with Rule 11.4.1 P3 and P9 - P15.

- i. The following diagram shows when a resource consent is required for indigenous vegetation clearance under Rule 9.1.4.



9.1.4 Rules - Activity status tables

9.1.4.0 General Rules

9.1.4.0.1 Council indigenous vegetation notice

- a. In Rule 9.1.4, ‘Council indigenous vegetation notice’ means a notice signed on behalf of the [Council](#) and dated and served in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 on an owner or occupier of land, and which includes the following information:
 - i. a statement that the [Council](#) knows or has information to indicate that there may be [indigenous vegetation](#) listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 present on the land;
 - ii. a copy of the information that the [Council](#) holds and relies on for that understanding;
 - iii. a narrative description of the [indigenous vegetation](#) that the [Council](#) knows or understands may be present on the land;
 - iv. a map that gives an approximate location of where it is on the land;
 - v. a statement that the Plan contains restrictions on the felling or clearing of [indigenous vegetation](#) by cutting, crushing, cultivation, irrigation, chemical application, artificial drainage, stop banking or burning and that those restrictions may mean the owner or occupier requires resource consent to be able to lawfully undertake any such activity;
 - vi. a contact person and contact number for any enquiry the owner or occupier may wish to make concerning the notice.

9.1.4.1 Permitted activities

The activities listed below are permitted activities if they meet the activity specific standards set out in this table.

Activities may also be controlled, restricted discretionary or non-complying as specified in Rules 9.1.4.2, 9.1.4.3 and 9.1.4.4 below.

Exemptions relating to this rule can be found in Rule 9.1.3 (h).

	Activity	Activity specific standards
P1	<p>Indigenous vegetation clearance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. within a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1; or b. of vegetation listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and where a Council indigenous vegetation notice has been served. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any indigenous vegetation clearance shall be limited to clearance for one or more of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the operation, maintenance and repair, within 2 metres either side, of fences, access tracks, buildings, fire ponds, gates, stock yards, troughs and water tanks; ii. clearance necessary for the removal of pest plants and pest animals in accordance with any regional pest management plan or the Biosecurity Act 1993; iii. for the purpose of maintaining improved

	Activity	Activity specific standards
		<p><u>pasture</u>;</p> <p>iv. <u>conservation activities</u>;</p> <p>v. to implement a conservation covenant established under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in the First Schedule of the Conservation Act 1987;</p> <p>vi. clearance of any understory of <u>indigenous vegetation</u> as a result of harvesting an <u>existing forestry</u> area or maintenance of forestry access or firebreaks.</p>
P2	<p>Planting and seed gathering:</p> <p>a. within a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1; or</p> <p>b. within <u>indigenous vegetation</u> listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and where a Council indigenous vegetation notice has been served.</p>	<p>a. Planting shall utilise indigenous species that are naturally occurring and sourced from within the relevant ecological district within which the planting is to take place.</p> <p>Advice note: Ecological districts are identified in Appendix 9.1.6.4.</p> <p>Advice note: Vegetation to be planted in the vicinity of any electricity infrastructure should be selected and/or managed to ensure that it will not result in that vegetation breaching the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.</p>
P3	<p><u>Customary harvesting</u> of:</p> <p>a. any species grown specifically for that purpose; or</p> <p>b. any other taonga species with the written permission of the relevant rununga:</p> <p>that is:</p> <p>i. within a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1; or</p> <p>ii. <u>indigenous vegetation</u> listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and where a Council indigenous vegetation notice has been served.</p> <p>Advice note: This rule does not override the requirements to obtain permission of the landowner or administrator for any <u>customary harvesting</u> of taonga species.</p>	<p>a. Any felling of trees shall be limited to <u>Māori land</u> in a Pāpakianga/Kāinga Nohoanga Zone and only where the felling of the tree is <u>ancillary</u> to a permitted activity or has been provided for by resource consent granted under any rule of that zone.</p>
P4	<p>Any <u>indigenous vegetation clearance</u>:</p> <p>a. outside a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1; and</p> <p>b. that:</p> <p>i. is not vegetation listed in Appendix</p>	Nil

	Activity	Activity specific standards
	9.1.6.6; or ii. is vegetation listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 but a Council indigenous vegetation notice has not been served.	

9.1.4.2 Controlled activities

The activities listed below are controlled activities.

Exemptions relating to this rule can be found in Rule 9.1.3 (h).

Activity	The Council's control will be limited to the following matters:
C1 <u>Indigenous vegetation clearance</u> , not provided for by Rule 9.1.4.1 P1 or P3, of vegetation listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and where a Council indigenous vegetation notice has been served, where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. an ecological assessment by an appropriately qualified ecologist is provided that confirms the <u>indigenous vegetation clearance</u> proposed to be undertaken does not include any of the vegetation listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6. Any resource consent application shall not be limited or publicly notified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the activity is undertaken in accordance with the proposal as assessed by the qualified ecologist.

9.1.4.3 Restricted discretionary activities

The activities listed below are restricted discretionary activities.

Discretion to grant or decline consent and impose conditions is restricted to the matters of discretion set out in the following table.

Exemptions relating to this rule can be found in Rule 9.1.3 (h).

Activity	The Council's discretion shall be limited to the following matters:
RD1 Any <u>customary harvesting</u> listed in Rule 9.1.4.1 P3 that does not meet any one or more of the activity specific standards in Rule 9.1.4.1 P3. Any resource consent application shall not be limited or publicly notified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Planting and customary harvesting – Rule 9.1.5.1
RD2 Any planting and seed gathering activity listed in Rule 9.1.4.1 P2 that does not meet any one or more of the activity specific standards in Rule 9.1.4.1 P2. Any resource consent application shall not be limited or publicly notified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Planting and customary harvesting – Rule 9.1.5.1
RD3 <u>Indigenous vegetation clearance</u> , not provided for by Rule 9.1.4.1 P1, for the purposes of new, or upgrades (except minor upgrades under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems – Rule

Activity	The Council's discretion shall be limited to the following matters:
<p>Rule 11.4.1 P9 - P15) to, utilities or network infrastructure operated by network utility operators, including associated access tracks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> within a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1; or of vegetation listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and where a Council indigenous vegetation notice has been served; or consisting of the vegetation described in Rule 9.1.4.4 NC3. <p>Advice note: This rule does not apply to customary harvesting.</p>	9.1.5.2
<p>RD4 Indigenous vegetation clearance of vegetation listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and where a Council indigenous vegetation notice has been served, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> is not provided for by Rule 9.1.4.1 P1 or Rule 9.1.4.2 C1; and is undertaken in accordance with a Farm Biodiversity Plan which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 9.1.6.7. <p>Any application arising from this rule shall not be publicly notified and shall be limited notified only to the Department of Conservation (absent its written approval).</p> <p>Advice note: The rule does not apply to customary harvesting.</p>	a. Farm Biodiversity Plans – Rule 9.1.5.3
<p>RD5 Indigenous vegetation clearance within a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> is not provided for by Rule 9.1.4.1 P1 or Rule 9.1.4.2 C1; and is undertaken in accordance with a Farm Biodiversity Plan which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Appendix 9.1.6.7. <p>Any application arising from this rule shall not be publicly notified and shall be limited notified only to the Department of Conservation (absent its written approval).</p> <p>Advice note: This rule does not apply to customary harvesting.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems – Rule 9.1.5.2 Farm Biodiversity Plans – Rule 9.1.5.3

9.1.4.4 Non-complying activities

The activities listed below are non-complying activities.

Exemptions relating to this rule can be found in Rule 9.1.3 (h).

Activity	
NC1	<p>Indigenous vegetation clearance, that is not provided for by Rule 9.1.4.1 P1, Rule 9.1.4.2 C1 or Rule 9.1.4.3 RD3 - RD5:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> within a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 or of vegetation listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6 and where a Council indigenous notice has been served; <p>Advice note: This rule does not apply to customary harvesting.</p>
NC2	Plantation forestry in a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1.
NC3	On Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills, indigenous vegetation clearance involving the clearance of:

Activity	
	<p>a. Any old-growth podocarp/hardwood forest which contains kahikatea (<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>), totara (<i>Podocarpus totara</i>, <i>Podocarpus laetus</i>) matai (<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>), miro (<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>), or kaikawaka (<i>Libocedrus bidwillii</i>) trees, or beech forest which contains <i>Fuscospora</i> spp trees; or any mature individual trees of these species; or</p> <p>b. A contiguous area of 0.5ha or more of regenerating podocarp/hardwood forest or beech forest or mixed hardwood forest dominated by native trees such as mahoe (<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>), fivefinger (<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>), lemonwood (<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>), tree fuchsia (<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>), narrow-leaved lacebark (<i>Hoheria angustifolia</i>), ribbonwood (<i>Plagianthus regius</i>), kaikomako (<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>), kowhai (<i>Sophora microphylla</i>), pigeonwood (<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>), or ngaio (<i>Myoporum laetum</i>).</p> <p>Advice note: This rule does not apply to customary harvesting or to indigenous vegetation clearance provided for by Rule 9.1.4.3 RD3.</p>

9.1.5 Rules - Matters of discretion

When considering applications for restricted discretionary activities, the [Council](#)'s discretion to grant or decline consent, or impose conditions, is restricted to the matters over which discretion is restricted in the relevant rule and as described below.

9.1.5.1 Planting and customary harvesting

- a. The extent to which the selected or proposed species are locally appropriate / endemic; and
- b. The extent to which [customary harvesting](#) is sustainable for the habitat and will not result in any long term ecological impacts, including on significance values.

9.1.5.2 Indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems

- a. The extent to which the nature, scale, intensity and location of the proposed activity will adversely affect [indigenous biodiversity](#) and ecosystems taking into account:
 - i. any loss of, or effects on, [indigenous vegetation](#) or habitats of [indigenous fauna](#), including [wetlands](#), ecological corridors and linkages;
 - ii. indigenous ecosystem integrity and function;
 - iii. Ngāi Tahu values associated with [indigenous biodiversity](#);
 - iv. where relevant, any effects on [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and/or significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1; and
 - v. where relevant, any effects on [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in the coastal environment.
- b. The extent to which [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and/or significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 will be protected to ensure [no net loss](#) of [indigenous biodiversity](#);

- c. The extent to which adverse effects on [indigenous biodiversity](#) and Ngāi Tahu values will be managed to ensure [indigenous biodiversity](#) in the [Christchurch District](#) is maintained and enhanced;
- d. Any social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits resulting from the proposed activity including the extent to which the activity may protect, maintain or enhance any ecosystems or [indigenous biodiversity](#), including through the use of [biodiversity offsets](#), covenants and/or restoration and enhancement;
- e. The risk of the increase in weed and pest species, and proposed management of pests; and
- f. Any locational, technical or operational requirements of the proposed activity and the practicality of avoiding [indigenous vegetation](#), including the viability of alternatives.

9.1.5.3 Farm Biodiversity Plans

- a. The extent to which the nature, scale, intensity and location of the proposed activity/activities will adversely affect [indigenous biodiversity](#), and the planned actions in the Farm Biodiversity Plan to avoid, remedy or mitigate these effects;
- b. The extent to which the Farm Biodiversity Plan achieves the overall maintenance and/or enhancement of [indigenous biodiversity](#), including the protection of areas of [significant indigenous vegetation](#) and significant habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in Sites of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, alongside the maintenance of rural productive values;
- c. Where relevant, any effects on [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitats of [indigenous fauna](#) in the coastal environment;
- d. Whether the targets and actions in the Farm Biodiversity Plan are appropriate, including timeframes; and
- e. The extent to which it is necessary to include regular reviews of progress against the targets and actions in the Farm Biodiversity Plan.

9.1.6 Appendices

9.1.6.1 Schedule of Sites of Ecological Significance

Introduction

This appendix is divided into two schedules:

Schedule A Sites of Ecological Significance

This part contains the schedule of Sites of Ecological Significance. The schedule includes sites identified on public land and, following collaboration, where private landowners have agreed to the inclusion of the site on the schedule.

This schedule is not a comprehensive list of Sites of Ecological Significance within the [Christchurch District](#). There are a number of sites that may also meet the ecological significance criteria, which are not included in Schedule A, including, but not limited to, those sites identified in Schedule B of Appendix 9.1.6.1. Schedule A will be updated by way of future plan changes to include new sites in accordance with Policies 9.1.2.3, 9.1.2.4 and 9.1.2.7.

Schedule B Information only – Ecological sites on private land that require further collaboration with landowners

This schedule identifies ecologically significant areas that have been identified and assessed, however the [Council](#) has not completed the collaborative process with landowners. The [Council](#) intends to continue discussions with these landowners about what ecological values exist on their property and the management of these values. It is intended that as the collaborative process is completed sites will be added to Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1 by way of future plan changes.

Areas identified in Schedule B are for information purposes only and for the purposes of the rules are not subject to the rules relating to Sites of Ecological Significance.

Sites of Ecological Significance identified in Schedule A and Schedule B with a notation of (part) indicates an ecologically significant area that has been identified and assessed however part of the Site of Ecological Significance occurs on private land and the collaborative process with the landowner has not been completed. These sites appear in both schedules.

Schedule A: Sites of Ecological Significance

1. Low Plains

ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
SES/LP/1	21	Waimakariri Reserves Dry Plains Grasslands Lease Land	McLeans Island	Low Plains
SES/LP/2	20, 26	Travis Wetland	Parklands	Low Plains
SES/LP/3	25, 26	No 2 and Old No 2 Drain	Between QE2 Drive and	Low Plains

ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
(part)			Horseshoe Lake Reserve	
SES/LP/4	31	Riccarton Bush	Riccarton	Low Plains
SES/LP/5	2, 6	Brooklands Lagoon	Brooklands	Low Plains
SES/LP/6 (part)	13, 2, 20, 26, 27, 34, 41, 48, 6	Christchurch Coastal Strip	Southshore Spit to Waimakariri River mouth	Low Plains
SES/LP/7	17, 18	Roto Kohatu Lakes	Harewood	Low Plains
SES/LP/8	25, 26	Horseshoe Lake Reserve	Burwood	Low Plains
SES/LP/9	24, 31	Jellie Park Pond	Burnside	Low Plains
SES/LP/10	44	Westlake Reserve Ponds	Halswell	Low Plains
SES/LP/11	1, 2, 5	Lower Waimakariri River Tidal Reaches	Kainga	Low Plains
SES/LP/12	10, 11, 4	Sanctuary Wetland	Belfast/Waimakariri River	Low Plains
SES/LP/13	10, 11, 14, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9	Waimakariri River Braided River	North Christchurch territorial boundary	Low Plains
SES/LP/14	33, 34, 40, 41, 47, 48	Avon Heathcote Estuary / Ihutai and environs	The Estuary	Low Plains
SES/LP/15	29, 36	Templeton Golf Course & Ruapuna Speedway	Templeton	Low Plains
SES/LP/16 (part)	16, 22	Conservators Road Dry Plains Grassland	Harewood	Low Plains
SES/LP/17	21	Chattertons Road Dry Plains Grassland	Yaldhurst	Low Plains
SES/LP/18	21, 22	School Road Dry Plains Grassland	Yaldhurst	Low Plains
SES/LP/19	4, 5	Dickeys Road Wetland	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/20	2	Styx River Mouth Wetlands	Brooklands	Low Plains
SES/LP/21	5	Otukaikino Reserve Wetland	Chaney's	Low Plains
SES/LP/22	44	Wilmers Road Dry Grasslands	Hornby	Low Plains
SES/LP/23 (part)	12, 13, 18, 19, 2, 6	Styx River	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/24 (part)	25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39	Avon River / Otakaro and Tributaries	The Avon and main tributaries	Low Plains
SES/LP/25	37, 38, 39, 40, 44, 45, 46, 47	Heathcote River and Tributaries	The Heathcote and main tributaries.	Low Plains
SES/LP/26 (part)	10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 4, 5	Otukaikino River and Tributary Waterways	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/27	18	Smacks Creek	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/28	12, 19	Kaputone Creek	Belfast	Low Plains

ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
(part)				
SES/LP/29 (part)	49	Knights and Nottingham Streams	Halswell	Low Plains
SES/LP/30	19	Horners Drain and Rhodes Drain	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/31	13	Sheppards Stream	Marshland	Low Plains
SES/LP/32	10, 11	Isaacs Carr	Harewood	Low Plains
SES/LP/33	15, 21	Christchurch Gun Club Dry Plains Grassland	Harewood	Low Plains
SES/LP/34	8	McLeans Island Kanuka	Harewood	Low Plains
SES/LP/37	5	Chaney/Kaingā Wetland	Brooklands	Low Plains
SES/LP/38 (part)	49	Creamery Ponds	Halswell	Low Plains
SES/LP/40	5	Main North Road Ephemeral Pond	Bridgend	Low Plains
SES/LP/41	16	McLeans Island Road Dry Grassland	Harewood	Low Plains
SES/LP/43	24	Papanui Stream	Papanui	Low Plains
SES/LP/44 (part)	18	Cavendish Drain	Redwood	Low Plains
SES/LP/45	16, 17	Peacock Springs	Harewood	Low Plains

2. Banks Peninsula and Port Hills

ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
SES/A/8 (part)	R8	Tumbledown Bay Dunes	Te Oka Road, Southern Bays	Akaroa
SES/A/12	71, 72, R5	Le Bons Estuary	Le Bons Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/13 (part)	68, R2, R5	Okains Estuary	Okains Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/14 (part)	R4	Okuti Valley	Okuti Valley Road, Little River	Akaroa
SES/A/15 (part)	R2	Raupo Bay	Chorlton	Akaroa
SES/A/18 (part)	R5	Goughs Bay	Goughs Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/20 (part)	75, R8	Wainui / Carews Peak	Wainui	Akaroa
SES/A/24 (part)	R5	Otepatotu	Lavericks Peak, Summit Road	Akaroa
SES/A/26 (part)	74, R4	Saddle Hill	Above Okuti Valley	Akaroa
SES/H/3 (part)	R2, R4	Hay Reserve	Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/6 (part)	78, R4, R8	Lake Forsyth / Wairewa	Little River	Herbert

ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
SES/H/9 (part)	R1	Upper Port Levy Miro	Port Levy Saddle	Herbert
SES/H/11 (part)	R2	Holloway Conservation Reserve and Goodwin Reserve	Starvation Gully Road, Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/14 (part)	78, R4, R8	Birdlings Flat Shrublands	Poranui Beach Road, Birdlings Flat	Herbert
SES/H/16 (part)	R3	Lower Kaituna River	Kaituna Valley	Herbert
SES/H/17 (part)	R4	Kaituna Spur	Kaituna Valley	Herbert
SES/H/24 (part)	R4	Waipuna Saddle	Western Valley Road, Little River	Herbert
SES/H/28 (part)	R1	Mt Bradley	Mt Bradley	Herbert
SES/E/1 (part)	R3, R6, R7	Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and Margins	Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora	Ellesmere
SES/E/2 (part)	78, R3, R4, R6, R7	Kaitorete Spit	Kaitorete Spit	Ellesmere

Schedule B: Information only – Ecological sites on private land that require further collaboration with landowners

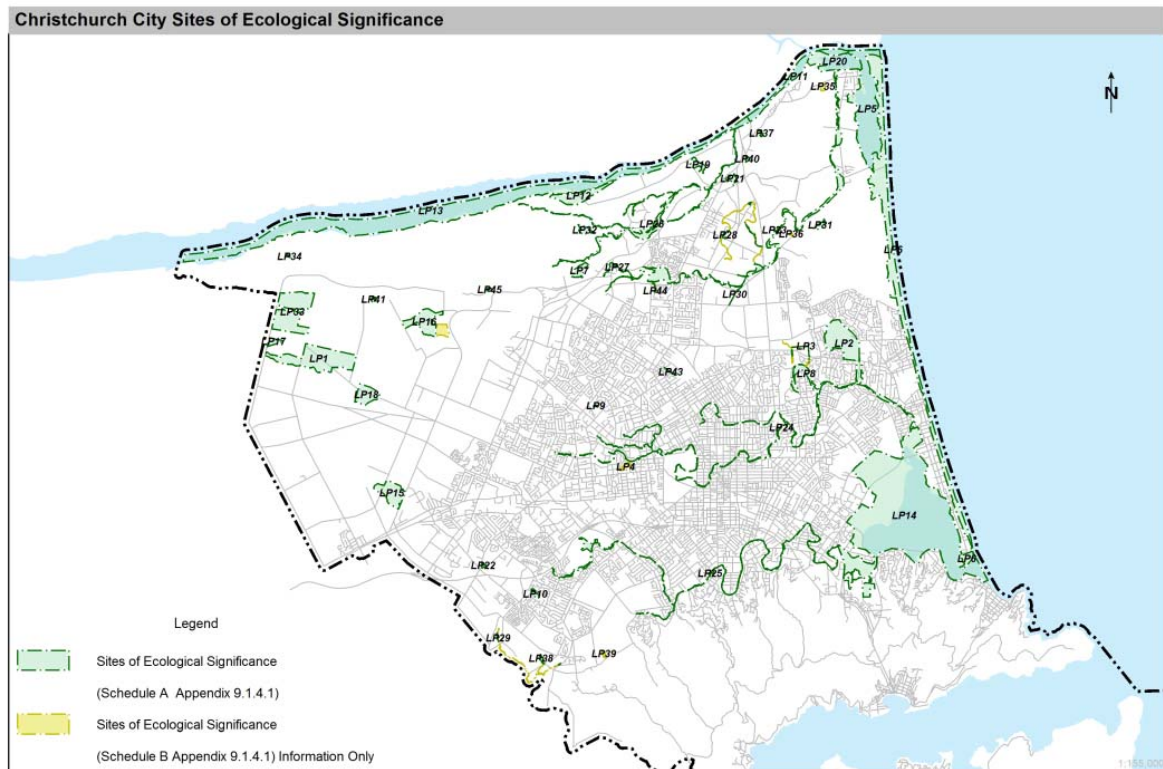
ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
Low Plains				
SES/LP/3 (part)	25, 26	No 2 and Old No 2 Drain	Between QE2 Drive and Horseshoe Lake Reserve	Low Plains
SES/LP/6 (part)	13, 2, 20, 26, 27, 34, 41, 48, 6	Christchurch Coastal Strip	Southshore Spit to Waimakariri River mouth	Low Plains
SES/LP/14 (part)	33, 34, 40, 41, 47, 48	Avon Heathcote Estuary / Ihutai and environs	The Estuary	Low Plains
SES/LP/16 (part)	16, 22	Conservators Road Dry Plains Grassland	Harewood	Low Plains
SES/LP/23 (part)	12, 13, 18, 19, 2, 6	Styx River	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/24 (part)	25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39	Avon River / Otakaro and Tributaries	The Avon and main tributaries	Low Plains
SES/LP/26 (part)	10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 4, 5	Otukaikino River and Tributary Waterways	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/28 (part)	12, 19	Kaputone Creek	Belfast	Low Plains
SES/LP/29 (part)	49	Knights and Nottingham	Halswell	Low Plains

ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
		Streams		
SES/LP/35	2	Kainga Road Saltmeadow	Brooklands	Low Plains
SES/LP/36	12	Lower Styx Road Ephemeral Ponding	Marshland	Low Plains
SES/LP/38 (part)	49	Creamery Ponds	Halswell	Low Plains
SES/LP/39	50	Cashmere Road Ephemeral Pond	Halswell	Low Plains
SES/LP/44 (part)	18	Cavendish Drain	Redwood	Low Plains
Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills				
SES/A/1	R4	French Farm Wetland	Upper catchment of French Farm	Akaroa
SES/A/2	73, R4	Wainui Pass Wetland	Upper catchment of French Farm	Akaroa
SES/A/3	69, R4	Breitmeyers	Little River	Akaroa
SES/A/4	R5	Cloud Farm	Summit Road, Akaroa	Akaroa
SES/A/5	66, R2	Decanter Headland	Little Akaloa	Akaroa
SES/A/6	R2	North West Okains Bay	Okains Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/7	72, R5	Steep Head	Le Bons Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/8 (part)	R8	Tumbledown Bay Dunes	Te Oka Road, Southern Bays	Akaroa
SES/A/9	R4, R8	Hikuraki Bay Valley	Off Bossu Road, Southern Bays	Akaroa
SES/A/10	73, R4	Barrys Bay Kahikatea	Akaroa Road, Barrys Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/11	R4	Kinloch	South-east Lake Forsyth, Little River	Akaroa
SES/A/13 (part)	68, R2, R5	Okains Estuary	Okains Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/14 (part)	R4	Okuti Valley	Okuti Valley Road, Little River	Akaroa
SES/A/15 (part)	R2	Raupo Bay	Chorlton	Akaroa
SES/A/16	R2, R5	View Hill	Above Chorlton	Akaroa
SES/A/17	R9	Stony Bay Sooty Shearwater Colony	Sea cliffs south of Stony Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/18 (part)	R5	Goughs Bay	Goughs Bay	Akaroa
SES/A/20 (part)	75, R8	Wainui / Carews Peak	Wainui	Akaroa
SES/A/21	R5	Grehan Valley	Above Akaroa	Akaroa
SES/A/22	R9	Lighthouse Road Coastal Slopes	Akaroa Head	Akaroa

ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
SES/A/23	78, R4	Oashore	South of Lake Forsyth, Little River	Akaroa
SES/A/24 (part)	R5	Otepatotu	Lavericks Peak, Summit Road	Akaroa
SES/A/26 (part)	74, R4	Saddle Hill	Above Okuti Valley	Akaroa
SES/A/27	R2	Stony Beach	Chorlton	Akaroa
SES/A/28	R5	Paua Bay Valley	Paua Bay Road, Akaroa	Akaroa
SES/H/1	67, R4	Cotters Bush	Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/2	66, R2	Decanter Bay Valley	Decanter Bay	Herbert
SES/H/3	R2, R4	Hay Reserve	Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/4	R2	Menzies Bay	Menzies Bay	Herbert
SES/H/5	67, R4	Pigeon Bay Road Bush	Pigeon Bay Road	Herbert
SES/H/6 (part)	78, R4, R8	Lake Forsyth / Wairewa	Little River	Herbert
SES/H/7	R4	Pigeon Bay Turnoff	Summit Road/Middle Road, Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/8	R1	Purau Valley Head	Off Purau Port Levy Road	Herbert
SES/H/9 (part)	R1	Upper Port Levy Miro	Port Levy Saddle	Herbert
SES/H/10	R1	Upper Port Levy	Port Levy Saddle	Herbert
SES/H/11 (part)	R2	Holloway Conservation Reserve and Goodwin Reserve	Starvation Gully Road, Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/12	60, 61, 63, R1	Head of the Harbour	Teddington	Herbert
SES/H/13	R1, R4	Howdens	North of Mt Fitzgerald	Herbert
SES/H/14 (part)	78, R4, R8	Birdlings Flat Shrublands	Poranui Beach Road, Birdlings Flat	Herbert
SES/H/15	R4	Prices Valley QEII Covenant and Environs	Prices Valley	Herbert
SES/H/16 (part)	R3	Lower Kaituna River	Kaituna Valley	Herbert
SES/H/17 (part)	R4	Kaituna Spur	Kaituna Valley	Herbert
SES/H/18	78, R4	Lake Forsyth North Side	Christchurch Akaroa Road, Little River	Herbert
SES/H/19	R4	Lathams	Little River	Herbert
SES/H/20	R4	Western Slopes of Mid Prices Valley	Prices Valley	Herbert
SES/H/21	60, R1	Mansons Peninsula	Lyttelton Harbour	Herbert

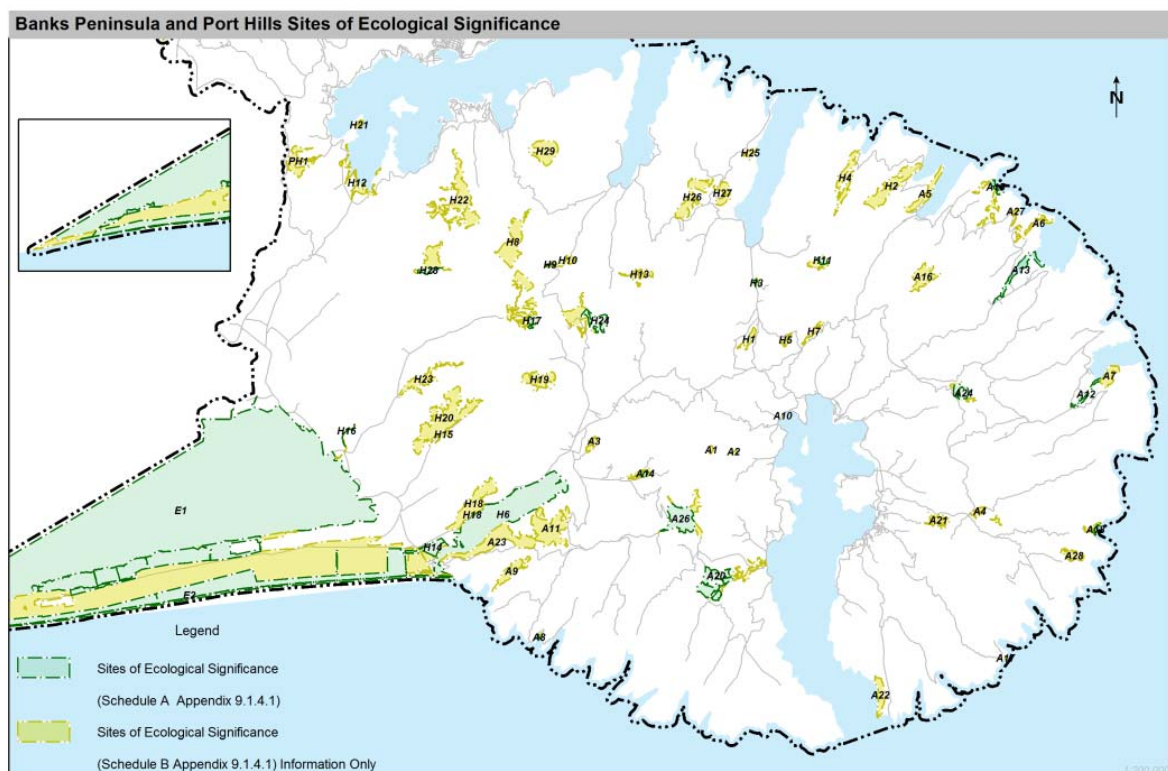
ID. No	Planning Map Number	Name and/or Description	Location	Ecological District
SES/H/22	61, 63, R1	Mt Herbert Spur and Orton Bradley Park	Above Charteris Bay	Herbert
SES/H/23	R4	Okana Valley, Kaituna	Off Kaituna Valley, Little River	Herbert
SES/H/24 (part)	R4	Waipuna Saddle	Western Valley Road, Little River	Herbert
SES/H/25	R2	Whiskey Gully	Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/26	R1, R2	Wild Cattle Hill and Maori Gully	Between Pigeon Bay and Port Levy	Herbert
SES/H/27	R2	Northern Side of Holmes Bay	Pigeon Bay	Herbert
SES/H/28 (part)	R1	Mt Bradley	Mt Bradley	Herbert
SES/H/29	62, R1	Mt Evans	Between Purau Bay and Port Levy	Herbert
SES/E/1 (part)	R3, R6, R7	Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora and Margins	Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora	Ellesmere
SES/E/2 (part)	78, R3, R4, R6, R7	Kaitorete Spit	Kaitorete Spit	Ellesmere
SES/PH/1	60, R1	Lion Rock	Summit Road, Allandale, Governors Bay	Port Hills

9.1.6.2 Schedule reference map - Sites of ecological significance

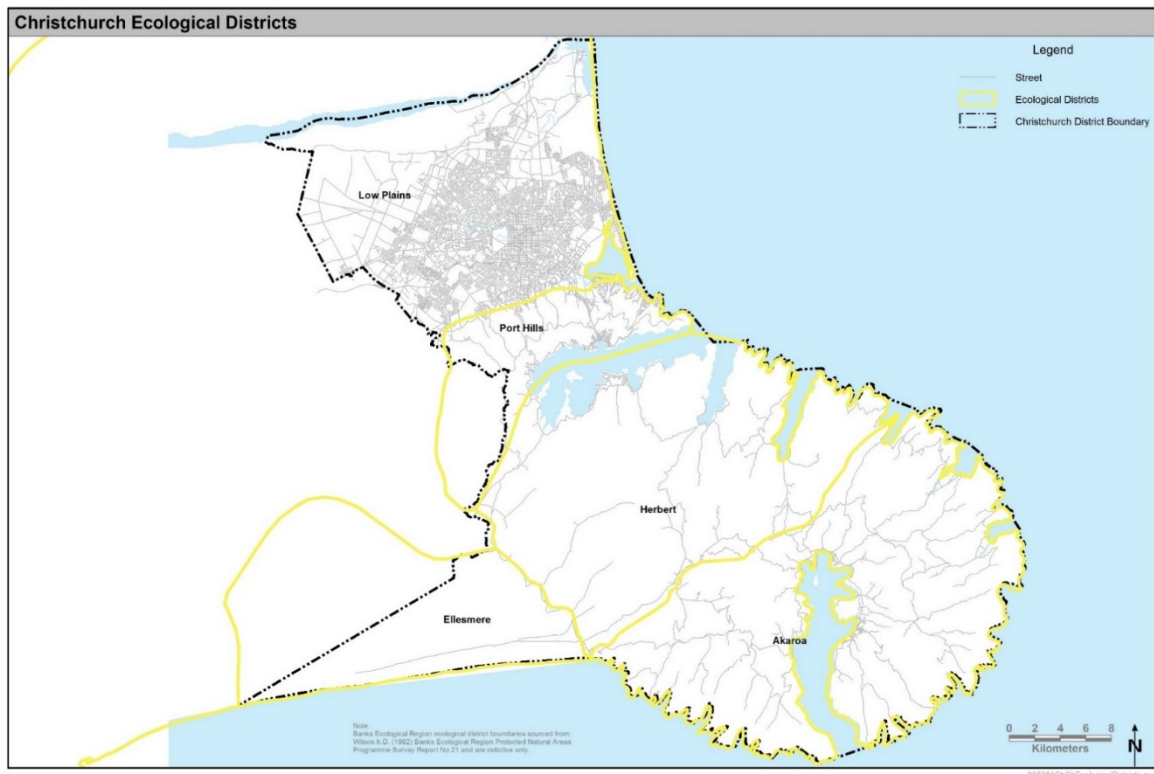


(Christchurch City)

9.1.6.3 Schedule reference map - Sites of ecological significance (Banks Peninsula and Port Hills)



9.1.6.4 Ecological districts map



9.1.6.5 Framework for biodiversity offsetting

Introduction

The following sets out a framework for the use of [biodiversity offsets](#). Any [biodiversity offset](#) is to be consistent with this framework. It should be read in conjunction with The New Zealand Government *Guidance on Good Practice Biodiversity Offsetting in New Zealand* August 2014 (or any successor document).

Biodiversity offsetting framework

- a. Restoration, enhancement and protection actions will only be considered a [biodiversity offset](#) where they are used to offset the anticipated reasonably measureable residual effects of activities after appropriate avoidance, remediation and mitigation actions have occurred in accordance with Policy 9.1.2.8 (i.e. not in situations where they are used to mitigate the adverse effects of activities).
- b. A proposed [biodiversity offset](#) will contain an explicit loss and gain calculation commensurate to the scale of effects the activity, and should demonstrate the manner in which [no net loss](#) can be achieved.
- c. A [biodiversity offset](#) will recognise the limits to offsets due to irreplaceable and vulnerable biodiversity (including effects that must be avoided in accordance with Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010), and its design and implementation will include provisions for addressing sources of uncertainty and risk of failure of the delivery of [no net loss](#).
- d. Restoration, enhancement and protection actions undertaken as a [biodiversity offset](#) are demonstrably additional to what otherwise would occur, including that they are additional to any remediation or mitigation undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.
- e. In relation to a Site of Ecological Significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1, offset actions will be undertaken within the Site of Ecological Significance as a first priority, or where this is not practicable, as close as possible to the location of development within the same ecological district as a second priority.
- f. Offset actions will prioritise protection and enhancement of existing areas of biodiversity where those actions produce additional biodiversity gains commensurate with the biodiversity values lost.
- g. The values to be lost through the activity to which the offset applies are counterbalanced by the proposed offsetting activity which is at least commensurate with the residual adverse effects on [indigenous biodiversity](#), so that the overall result is [no net loss](#).
- h. The offset will be applied so that the ecological values being achieved through the offset are the same or similar to those being lost, unless an alternative ecosystem or habitat will provide a net gain for [indigenous biodiversity](#), and the values lost are not irreplaceable or highly vulnerable.
- i. There is a strong likelihood that the positive ecological outcomes of the offset last at least as long as the impact of the activity, and preferably in perpetuity. Adaptive management responses should be incorporated into the design of the [biodiversity offset](#), as required to ensure that the positive ecological outcomes are maintained over time.

- j. The biodiversity offset will be designed and implemented in a landscape context – i.e. with an understanding of both the donor and recipient sites' roles, or potential roles, in the ecological context of the area.
- k. Any application that intends to utilise a biodiversity offset will include a biodiversity offset management plan that:
 - i. sets out baseline information on indigenous biodiversity that is potentially impacted by the proposal at both the donor and recipient sites;
 - ii. demonstrates how the requirements of the framework set out in this appendix will be addressed; and
 - iii. identifies the monitoring approach that will be used to demonstrate how the matters set out in this framework have been addressed, over an appropriate timeframe.

9.1.6.6 Indigenous vegetation on Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills, outside of the sites of ecological significance listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1

Table 1. Indigenous vegetation on Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills (Advice note: [Banks Peninsula](#) means the area shown at Appendix 2.1 of Chapter 2 Definitions)

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
a. Indigenous trees and forest	i. Mature and regenerating kanuka (<i>Kunzea robusta</i>) forest in the Port Hills Ecological District	0.25 ha or greater in area	N/A	Any individual kanuka plants are 4 metres or greater in height	http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_7644.pdf
	ii. Mature and regenerating kanuka (<i>Kunzea robusta</i>) forest in the Herbert, Akaroa or Ellesmere Ecological Districts	0.5 ha or greater in area	N/A	Any individual kanuka plants are 6 metres or greater in height	http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_7644.pdf
	iii. Lower altitude mixed scrub – in which mature specimens of any of the following genera form the dominant cover: <i>Olearia</i> : - <i>Olearia arborescens</i> - Mountain akeake (<i>Olearia avicenniifolia</i>) - <i>Olearia bullata</i> - <i>Olearia fimbriata</i>	0.5ha or greater in area	N/A	N/A	<i>Olearia arborescens</i> - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1043.pdf Mountain akeake - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1044.pdf <i>Olearia bullata</i> - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1045.pdf

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fragrant tree daisy (<i>Olearia fragrantissima</i>) - Mountain holly, hakeke (<i>Olearia ilicifolia</i>) - <i>Olearia nummulariifolia</i> - Akiraho (<i>Olearia paniculata</i>) <i>Hebe</i> - <i>Hebe odora</i> - Koromiko (<i>Hebe salicifolia</i>) - Banks Peninsula hebe (<i>Hebe strictissima</i>) <i>Pseudopanax</i> - fivefinger, whauwhaupaku (<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>) - mountain fivefinger, orihou (<i>Pseudopanax colensoi</i>) - lancewood, horoeka (<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>) - fierce lancewood (<i>Pseudopanax ferox</i>) Fuchsia - fuchsia, kotukutuku (<i>Fuchsia excorticate</i>) - climbing fuchsia (<i>Fuchsia perscandens</i>) Griselinia, - broadleaf, kapuka (<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>) - shining broadleaf, puka (<i>Griselinia lucida</i>) <i>Pseudowintera</i> - horopito, pepperwood (<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>) and Coprosma - thin-leaved Coprosma (<i>Coprosma areolata</i>) - mikimiki (<i>Coprosma ciliata</i>, <i>Coprosma crassifolia</i>, <i>Coprosma dumosa</i>, <i>Coprosma propinqua</i>, <i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>, <i>Coprosma rigida</i>, <i>Coprosma rubra</i>, 				<p><i>Olearia fimbriata</i> - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_137.pdf</p> <p>Fragrant tree daisy - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_293.pdf</p> <p>Mountain holly, hakeke http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1051.pdf</p> <p><i>Olearia nummulariifolia</i> - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1055.pdf</p> <p>Akiraho - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1058.pdf</p> <p>fivefinger, whauwhaupaku - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1194.pdf</p> <p>mountain fivefinger, orihou - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1195.pdf</p> <p>lancewood, horoeka - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1196.pdf</p> <p>fierce lancewood - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_307.pdf</p> <p>fuchsia, kotukutuku - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1901.pdf</p> <p>climbing fuchsia - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_19</p>

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
	<p><i>Coprosma virescens</i>, <i>Coprosma wallii</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - yellow wood (<i>Coprosma linariifolia</i>) - karamu (<i>Coprosma lucida</i>, <i>Coprosma robusta</i>) - round-leaved mikimiki (<i>Coprosma rotundifolia</i>) - <i>Coprosma rugosa</i> 				<p>02.pdf</p> <p>broadleaf, kapuka - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1957.pdf</p> <p>shining broadleaf, puka - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1958.pdf</p> <p>horopito, pepperwood - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1201.pdf</p> <p>thin-leaved Coprosma - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1701.pdf</p> <p>mikimiki - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1706.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1708.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2322.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1728.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1731.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1732.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1735.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1741.pdf; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_159.pdf</p> <p>yellow wood - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_17</p>

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
					<p>18.pdf</p> <p>karamu - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1719.pdf;</p> <p>http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1733.pdf</p> <p>round-leaved mikimiki - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1734.pdf</p> <p><i>Comprosmia rugosa</i> - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1736.pdf</p>
	iv. Subalpine mixed scrub with generally continuous canopy of native species in which mature specimens of any of the following genera form the dominant cover: <i>Dracophyllum</i> , <i>Olearia</i> , <i>Hebe</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	v. Lower altitude small-leaved shrubland dominated by small-leaved <i>Coprosma</i> species, scrub pohuehue (<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>), <i>Helichrysum lanceolatum</i> , porcupine shrub (<i>Melicytus alpinus</i>), common broom (<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>) and/or matagouri (<i>Discaria toumatou</i>)	0.1 ha or greater in area	All native shrub species exceeds 15%.	N/A	<p>Scrub pohuehue - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_991.pdf</p> <p>Porcupine shrub - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_968.pdf</p> <p>Common broom - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1596.pdf</p> <p>Matagouri - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1795.pdf</p> <p><i>Helichrysum lanceolatum</i> - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_809.pdf</p>

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
b. Indigenous tussock grassland	i. Tall tussockland and/or tall tussock shrubland with native snow tussock (<i>Chionochloa</i>) and/or <i>Dracophyllum</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Native snow tussock - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1671.pdf http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1658.pdf Dracophyllum acerosum - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1799.pdf
	ii. Short tussockland with native fescue/hard tussock (<i>Festuca novae-zelandiae</i>) and native inter-tussock species	N/A	The contiguous area of specified species accounts for 20% or more of canopy cover	N/A	Hard tussock - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1893.pdf
	iii. Short tussockland with native silver tussock (<i>Poa cita</i>) and native inter-tussock species	A contiguous area of over 1.0ha	The contiguous area of specified species accounts for 30% or more of canopy cover.	N/A	Silver tussock - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1155.pdf
c. Indigenous coastal vegetation	i. Coastal shrubland communities; ii. Scattered (low density) indigenous tussock, shrubs, rushes, vines, herbs, grasses and mosses among predominantly exotic grasslands, and cushionfields, mossfields and stonefields on Kaitorete Spit	N/A	N/A	N/A	
d. Indigenous wetland	i. Naturally occurring freshwater marsh, fen, swamp, seepage, flush and aquatic vegetation, including closely associated riparian vegetation, in which native species of	N/A	N/A	N/A	Raupo - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_22

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
vegetation	the following genera are present: raupo (<i>Typha</i>), toetoe (<i>Cortaderia</i>), flax (<i>Phormium</i>), sedges (<i>Carex</i>), spike rush (<i>Eleocharis</i>), pond weed (<i>Potamogeton</i>), sphagnum moss (<i>Sphagnum</i>), bog rush (<i>Schoenus</i>); pygmy clubrush (<i>Isolepis basilaris</i>), slender clubrush (<i>Isolepis cernua</i>), <i>Isolepis distigmata</i> , <i>Isolepis Habra</i> , <i>Isolepis pottsii</i>				<p>79.pdf</p> <p>Toetoe - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1758.pdf</p> <p>Flax - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2219.pdf</p> <p>Spike rush - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2120.pdf</p> <p>http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2121.pdf</p> <p>Pondweed - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2225.pdf</p> <p>http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2226.pdf</p> <p>Bog rush - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_802.pdf</p> <p>Pygmy clubrush - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_129.pdf</p> <p>Slender clubrush - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2166.pdf <i>Isolepis distigmata</i>- http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2167.pdf</p> <p><i>Isolepis Habra</i> - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_862.pdf</p> <p><i>Isolepis inundata</i> -</p>

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
					http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_799.pdf Isolepis pottsii - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_863.pdf
	ii. Saltmarsh vegetation in which any of the following native species are present: seagrass (<i>Zostera</i>), saltmarsh ribbonwood (<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>), sea rush (<i>Juncus kraussii</i>), jointed rush (<i>Apodasmia similis</i>), remuremu (<i>Selliera radicans</i>), sea primrose (<i>Samolus repens</i>), glasswort (<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>), native musk (<i>Thyridia repens</i>), salt grass (<i>Puccinellia</i> spp), <i>Schoenoplectus</i> spp;	N/A	N/A	N/A	Seagrass - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2335.pdf Saltmarsh ribbonwood - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1141.pdf Sea rush - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2172.pdf Jointed rush - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2052.pdf Remuremu - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2255.pdf Sea primrose - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_1280.pdf Glasswort - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2247.pdf Native musk - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_286.pdf Saltgrass (<i>Puccinellia</i> spp.) - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2234.pdf ;

Ecosystem Category	Vegetation and habitat (species)	Occupying a contiguous area of: (hectares)	Canopy cover (%) of:	Height (metre) of any individual plants	Link to factsheet with example of vegetation type
					http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_651.pdf Schoenoplectus spp. - http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2251.pdf ; http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/c/flora/factsheets/NZPCN_Species_2252.pdf
e. Naturally uncommon ecosystem	i. Indigenous vegetation in a naturally uncommon ecosystem as identified in Table 2;	N/A	N/A	N/A	Refer to Table 2
f. Threatened indigenous species	i. An area of vegetation which provides habitat for an indigenous species that is threatened, at risk or uncommon, nationally or within the relevant ecological district or that is endemic to the Canterbury Region	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Naturally Uncommon Ecosystems

Tentative common name	Vegetation structure	Link to information sheet that describes the ecosystem
Coastal ecosystems		
Active sand dunes	Grassland, sedgeland, open land	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/active-sand-dunes
Dune deflation hollows	Open land	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/dune-deflation-hollows
Shell barrier beaches	Grassland, herbfield	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/shell-barrier-beaches-chenier-plains
Coastal turfs	Open land, herbfield	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/coastal-turfs
Stony beach ridges	Scrub, shrubland, open land	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/stony-beach-ridges
Shingle beaches	Open land	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/shingle-beaches
Stable sand dunes	Shrubland, grassland, tussockland, herbfield, open land	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/stable-sand-dunes
Coastal rock stacks	Open land, herbfield, lichenfield, shrubland	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/coastal-rock-stacks
Basic coastal cliffs	Open land, lichenfield, herbfield, scrub, shrubland, tussockland	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/coastal/coastal-cliffs-of-basic-rocks
Inland and Alpine ecosystems		
Volcanic boulderfields	Forest, scrub	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/inland-and-alpine/volcanic-boulderfields
Basic cliffs, scarps and tors	Open land, herbfield, tussockland, shrubland	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/inland-and-alpine/basic-cliffs-scarps-and-tors
Inland sand dunes	Open land, scrub, tussockland, herbfield	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/inland-and-alpine/inland-sand-dunes
Inland outwash gravels	Open land, herbfield, treeland	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/inland-and-alpine/inland-outwash-gravels
Braided riverbeds	Open land, herbfield	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/inland-and-alpine/braided-riverbeds

Tentative common name	Vegetation structure	Link to information sheet that describes the ecosystem
Induced by native vertebrates		
Seabird guano deposits	Open land, herbfield	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/induced-by-native-vertebrates/seabird-guano-deposits
Seabird burrowed soils	Open land to forest	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/induced-by-native-vertebrates/seabird-burrowed-soils
Marine mammal haulouts	Open land to forest	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/induced-by-native-vertebrates/marine-mammal-rookeries-and-haulouts
Wetlands		
Lake margins	Open land, herbfield, rushland	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/wetlands/lake-margins
Dune slacks	Herbfield, open land	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/wetlands/dune-slacks
Estuaries	Open land, sedgeland, rushland, reedland, herbfield, shrubland, scrub	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/wetlands/estuaries
Lagoons	Open land, sedgeland, rushland, reedland, herbfield, shrubland, scrub	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/wetlands/lagoons
Seepage and flushes	Sedgeland, cushionfield, mossfield, scrub	http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/factsheets/rare-ecosystems/wetlands/seepages-and-flushes

9.1.6.7 Farm biodiversity plan framework

Introduction

A Farm Biodiversity Plan, which may sit within an existing farm environment plan, is a tool to assist landowners / land managers in managing and protecting [indigenous biodiversity](#) on their property while recognising that areas of significant ecological value may also form an integral part of a productive farmed property.

A Farm Biodiversity Plan will take into consideration the recommendations contained in a Site Significance Statement/ecologist's report undertaken for any Site of Ecological Significance or any other areas of [indigenous biodiversity](#) on the property.

The purpose of a Farm Biodiversity Plan is to achieve maintenance and over time, enhancement, of [indigenous biodiversity](#) on the property alongside the ability to maintain [rural productive activities](#), in order to achieve the objectives and policies in 9.1.2, particularly Policy 9.1.2.13 (Farm Biodiversity Plans).

Development of a Farm Biodiversity Plan

A Farm Biodiversity Plan is developed through a collaborative process between the [Council](#) and the landowner / land manager.

The [Council](#) will work with landowners / land managers in developing a Farm Biodiversity Plan and will provide a suitably qualified ecological expert to identify and assess the [indigenous biodiversity](#) of the farmed property, and to provide ecological advice on management of those values. Advice may also be provided from an appropriately qualified person who has expertise in land/farm management, where appropriate.

The development of a Farm Biodiversity Plan provides the best opportunity for the land owner/land manager and [Council](#) to discuss and resolve any matters prior to it being lodged as part of an application for resource consent.

Framework

The following sets out the framework for development of a Farm Biodiversity Plan.

1. A Farm Biodiversity Plan can be provided in one of the following formats:
 - a. as a separate stand-alone Farm Biodiversity Plan; or
 - b. as an additional section to a farm environment plan prepared according to an industry template such as the Beef and Lamb New Zealand Canterbury Farm Environment Plan or a plan prepared to meet Schedule 7 of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan.

Where an industry farm environment plan template is used, the [Council](#) is only concerned with the sections of the farm environment plan that address the matters outlined in the framework below.

2. A Farm Biodiversity Plan can apply to:
 - a. a plan prepared for an individual [allotment](#) or aggregation of [allotments](#) managed as a single farm property; or
 - b. a plan prepared for a collective of farm properties that form a catchment.

3. The Farm Biodiversity Plan should contain as a minimum:
 - a. Description of the property/catchment and its features:
 - i. Physical address;
 - ii. Description of the ownership and name of a contact person;
 - iii. Legal description of the property; and
 - iv. A map(s) or aerial photograph at a scale that clearly shows, where relevant:
 - A. The [boundaries](#) of the farm property or [allotments](#) managed as a single farm;
 - B. The [boundaries](#) of the main land management units on the property or within the property;
 - C. The location of all [water bodies](#), including riparian vegetation;
 - D. Constructed features including [buildings](#), tracks and any fencing to protect biodiversity values (including around riparian areas);
 - E. The location of any areas within or [adjoining](#) the property that have been identified as a Site of Ecological Significance or are legally protected by way of covenant;
 - F. The location of any other areas within the property that may have ecologically significant values;
 - G. Areas of [improved pasture](#);
 - H. Areas of retired land; and
 - I. Location of any proposed developments, including new tracks or [buildings](#) and areas to be cleared.
 - b. Description of existing ecological values:

The purpose of this section is to describe the [indigenous biodiversity](#) of the property/catchment to understand what the values are and any threats or risks to these values. This will inform how these values are to be managed to achieve the overall goal(s) of maintenance, and over time, enhancement, of [indigenous biodiversity](#) on the property/catchment.

- i. Assess existing ecological values and identify any areas or ecological values that may warrant protection. Where the property contains one or more Sites of Ecological Significance, the Site Significance Statement(s) can provide this information. This assessment must be completed by a suitably qualified ecological expert;

- ii. Describe historic and current activities to protect or enhance ecological values; and
- iii. Describe any current or future threats and risks to existing ecological values. A map or photos may be useful.

c. Land management:

The purpose of this section is to understand how the land, including any Sites of Ecological Significance, has been managed, what the future management will be and how this will affect the [indigenous biodiversity](#).

- i. Describe historic and current land use management, including stocking policy, water supply, grazing regimes, [improved pasture](#), biodiversity management, where relevant;
- ii. Describe any proposed land use management or activities to be undertaken that would require the clearance or disturbance of [indigenous biodiversity](#) and the time frames over which these activities are proposed to occur. Such activities may include construction of new farm tracks or [buildings](#), intensification of land use, vegetation clearance of previously undisturbed areas, [earthworks](#) or cultivation; and
- iii. Describe any potential adverse effects of the proposed activities described above on areas of [indigenous biodiversity](#), including any Site of Ecological Significance.

d. Biodiversity management:

The purpose of this section is to establish the targets that can be used to measure progress towards achieving the overall goal of maintaining and, over time, enhancing [indigenous biodiversity](#) on the property.

- i. List measurable targets, which can be general or specific. Some examples of targets may include:
 - A. grazing pressure and stock rotation is managed to maintain and enhance [indigenous biodiversity](#);
 - B. fencing is considered on areas where grazing has not occurred in the past and on areas where significant [indigenous biodiversity](#) gains could be made from the exclusion of grazing stock; and
 - C. weed and pest control is prioritised to maximise [indigenous biodiversity](#).

e. Action Plan:

The purpose of this section is to explain how the targets set out in the Farm Biodiversity Plan will be achieved by actions on the ground, including any measures to assess progress. A useful starting point is the management recommendations in the Site Significance Statement for any Site of Ecological Significance on the property, where this has been completed, although more specific actions may be necessary.

- i. Describe the actions needed to achieve each targets, how each action will be achieved, over what timeframe, and any methods to assess progress. This should include how existing areas of [indigenous vegetation](#) and habitat will be managed to protect and maintain the values, including:

- A. fencing areas for protection;
- B. weed and pest control;
- C. restoration or enhancement planting; and
- D. stock removal or management of stock grazing levels to aid the regeneration of natural indigenous vegetation in appropriate areas.

f. Reporting on actions

The Council will review progress against the actions contained in the Farm Biodiversity Plan on a regular basis to ensure that the actions continue to be relevant to managing indigenous biodiversity on the property in accordance with the Farm Biodiversity Plan.

Regular reviews will be a condition of consent associated with the Farm Biodiversity Plan. Frequency of progress reviews will be determined as part of assessing the resource consent and will depend on activities proposed, indigenous biodiversity on the property, the duration of the resource consent, and will be informed by on-going dialogue with the landowner.

A progress review may include:

- i. A site visit to view actions taken and results achieved;
- ii. A request that the landowner provide a report on actions taken and results achieved.