

**OVERVIEW**

Banks Peninsula contains a rich array of widely appreciated heritage features. These include outstanding natural landscapes and landforms, coastal natural character landscapes and areas of ecological value, archaeological sites and features of cultural and historical heritage value. (Updated November 2010)

The natural environment of Banks Peninsula has been heavily modified by the actions of humans over many hundreds of years of occupation. However, there still remains a diverse array of forest remnants, coastal landforms, wetlands and other habitat areas which provide living evidence of the original natural environment of the Peninsula.

The remaining vestiges of the original natural environment of the Peninsula provide a rich heritage and are part of the uniqueness of the District which makes it an attractive place to live in and visit. The inherent characteristics and values of the natural environment of the Peninsula require sustainable management through a process whereby development respects conservation.

Private landowner initiatives such as covenanting, fencing, and management agreements make a vital contribution to the conservation of heritage. Sites containing areas protected by covenanting agreements are denoted by a logo on the Planning maps.

In addition, the provisions of legislation such as the Conservation Act, the Historic Places Act and the Reserves Act provide mechanisms for the identification and conservation of heritage sites, buildings and places. Private landowner initiatives such as fencing, management agreements, and covenanting also contribute to the conservation of heritage. District Plan provisions can be used to broaden and enhance the scope of preservation and conservation through a considered mix of control education, incentive and support.

<b>ISSUE 1</b>	<b>The indigenous biodiversity of Banks Peninsula, and its component indigenous ecosystems, habitats, and communities and species are continuing to be modified and degraded by the effects of activities and land uses.</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE 1</b>	<b>To protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem functioning of Banks Peninsula through the protection and enhancement of significant flora and fauna habitat, and riparian areas; the maintenance of natural biological and physical processes; and the retention of indigenous vegetation and wetlands generally.</b>

**POLICIES**

- 1A** Activities and development should avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on:
- the ecological resilience and functioning, habitat values, and amenity values of areas of significant indigenous vegetation, significant wetlands or significant habitats of indigenous fauna;
  - habitat linkages and corridors between areas of indigenous vegetation, wetlands and other natural habitats;
  - fresh water fish habitat, fish passage and aquatic ecosystems generally.
- 1B** Public access to significant habitats of indigenous fauna and to areas of significant indigenous vegetation should only take place at a level which does not compromise the ecological values.
- 1C** To encourage the protection and enhancement of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
- 1D** To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of activities and development on habitat linkages and wildlife corridors between areas of indigenous vegetation, wetlands and other natural habitats.
- 1E** Public access to the coastline, lakes and rivers should only take place at a level that does not compromise environmental quality or amenity.
- 1F** To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of activities and development on fresh water fish habitat, fish passage and aquatic ecosystems generally.

**EXPLANATION AND REASONS**

The protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna is a matter of national importance under Section 6 of the Resource Management Act. The purpose of the Act, Section 5, defines 'sustainable management' to include, amongst other things, safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems.

The Peninsula contains remnants of the original indigenous vegetation cover, primarily forest and wetland remnants, and these are the priority for protection. Regenerating indigenous vegetation is also important for maintaining biodiversity, habitats, ecological functioning, and amenity in the District. Ecosystem functioning and biodiversity can only be maintained and enhanced by addressing the problems of fragmentation, loss of ecological resilience, weed and pest invasion, and the adverse effects arising from some land use activities.

Ecosystem functioning describes the ability of an ecosystem to retain itself. This involves factors such as the maintenance of water quality and quantity, maintenance of the cycle of nutrients, and the retention of habitats and habitat linkages. Ecological resilience is the ability of ecosystems to recover from detrimental activities or events such as drought or vegetation removal. Loss of

ecological resilience is measured in relation to the particular situation, for plant communities it may be indicated by the invasion of exotic species, and for an animal community it may be measured by the change in population.

The priorities for the conservation of regenerating indigenous vegetation are the more established and representative areas. Provisions for its protection need to recognise the relative ecological value of different sites and make reasonable allowance for activities accordingly. Since many of these significant areas are located amongst land used for farming, they need protection from activities such as stock grazing, earthworks, drainage, and pesticide use, and from the effects of activities such as wilding tree spread.

The modified natural environment has largely been cleared of its indigenous vegetation coverage, however, some of this environment, including streams and other waterbodies, provide valuable habitat areas for indigenous fauna.

Habitat linkages are essential to ensuring the continued survival of species and ecosystems. In a highly fragmented system, such as Banks Peninsula, they are essential to safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of ecosystems. Corridors need to be used in conjunction with existing reserves, remnants on private land, and areas of regeneration.

<b>ISSUE 2</b>	<b>Sites, buildings, and places and areas which are of cultural heritage value can be adversely affected by inappropriate development.</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE 2</b>	<b>To ensure that the use and development of physical resources does not adversely affect the integrity of important elements of the cultural heritage of the District.</b>

## **POLICIES**

- 2A** The conservation of features and places of significant cultural heritage value will be promoted through their protection from the adverse effects of land use.
- 2B** Further development within existing settlements should respect and complement identified heritage values.
- 2C** The conservation of features and places of significant cultural heritage value will be promoted through their protection from the adverse effects of use of land use.

**EXPLANATION AND REASONS**

The District contains a number of cultural heritage features which warrant protection because of their archaeological, architectural or historical importance, or because of their significance to Maori. The values of heritage features can be adversely affected by land use activities, and the potential effects of such activities should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Protection of such features may be most appropriately provided by managing the area surrounding a heritage site if that area is important to the heritage values of the feature, or if the exact location of a feature is uncertain. In the case of existing settlements, controls may be needed to protect the heritage character of an area, rather than being restricted to sites. Controls may also be necessary to ensure that heritage features are not modified in an inappropriate manner.

**METHODS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES****Other District Plan Provisions**

- Rules to limit the location, type and scale of activities in Conservation Reserves, as set out in Chapters 12, 13 and 16.
- Rules to control vegetation clearance and earthworks to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse environmental effects associated with providing public access.
- Lists of Protected and Notable buildings, objects and sites in Appendices IV and V, and the objectives, policies and methods set out in Chapter 14 (Cultural Heritage).
- Rules to control external alterations or additions to buildings, and the erection or demolition of buildings in the Residential Conservation and Town Centre Zones of Akaroa and Lyttelton.
- Lists of notable buildings in Appendix V.
- Guidelines for buildings located within Rural, Rural-Residential and Akaroa Hill Slopes Zones in Appendix VIII.
- Design guidelines for buildings located within Residential Conservation and Town Centre Zones in Appendices X and XI.
- Protected trees are identified on the Planning maps and listed in Appendix VII, and objectives, policies and methods are set out in Chapter 15 (Trees).

**Council Assistance** (Updated 2 July 2011)

- Rate relief is available if significant areas of indigenous ecosystems are given formal protection by means of appropriate covenants.
- The provision of information to enable people to have a greater understanding of natural heritage features and the need for their protection, and information regarding the organisations which can provide assistance to protect them.
- For resource consent applications which are required solely in relation to the heritage protection controls associated with the provisions below, the Council shall:
  - waive application fees for non-notified applications (up to and including the release of Council's decision);
  - reduce application fees for notified applications up to the comparable amount for non-notified applications, and will give consideration to waiving application fees over and above this:
    - Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscapes Areas
    - The Coastal Protection Area
    - Areas defined as significant indigenous vegetation or identified as significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in accordance with Method 1 Chapter 19.
- Council will give consideration to waiving or reducing financial contributions which include contributions for reserves, which arise from subdivision involving significant natural areas (such as indigenous vegetation, habitats, wetlands, and esplanade reserves) when the heritage values of the property are adequately safeguarded.
- Council will give consideration of grants for fencing areas of indigenous vegetation.

**Other Methods** (Updated January 2008)

- Preparation and implementation of a strategic plan for reserves management to be completed within two years of the Plan being operative. The scope of the plan is to include:
  - A walkway network to be identified.
  - an active policy for purchasing and developing reserves for their ecological potential, as well as their suitability for people. In particular, the plan should consider the lower slopes where there is limited habitat for some wildlife species. This approach to include the planting of native plant species that have been sourced locally.
  - Community involvement and participation in reserves projects, landscape plans and similar settlement enhancement and landscape programmes under the Local Government Act.
- Adoption of Council approved management plans for particular areas of the Peninsula and funding mechanisms to assist in their implementation.

- A register will be held outside of the District Plan which identifies the location of esplanade reserves and strips.

**RELATED DISTRICT PLAN PROVISIONS**

- Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscapes Areas, Coastal Protection Areas, and Conservation Reserves are identified on the Planning maps.
- Rules to limit the location, type and scale of activities in the Outstanding Natural Feature and Landscapes Areas and Coastal Protection Areas and Conservation Reserves, as set out in Chapters 12, 13 and 16.
- Forestry Guidelines in Appendix IX, and the objectives, policies and methods relating to forestry set out in the Zone chapters.

**ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS**

The following environmental results are anticipated from the implementation of the objectives and policies relating to nature conservation:

- The protection and enhancement of the quality of natural habitats, ecosystems (including aquatic habitats), and significant areas of indigenous vegetation.
- Retention of the District's indigenous biodiversity.
- Protection of the listed historic and notable buildings, sites, places and areas and archaeological sites.
- Protection of waahi tapu and the features and sites located within the 'silent file' areas.
- The built environment does not dominate the natural environment and identified heritage items and heritage areas.
- Preservation of the historical character and streetscape of the Akaroa township.