

OVERVIEW

The Conservation Reserves Zone consists of reserve land owned and controlled by Council or the Department of Conservation. The reserve 'Onawe' owned by Ngai Tahu is the only land included in the Zone not owned publicly.

Some of the conservation reserves (shown on the Planning maps) extend into the coastal waters surrounding the District. However, the provisions of the Plan only apply to the landward portion of these areas.

Reserves have been established in the District for a variety of reasons since the middle of last century. Although not all of the reserves have been gazetted under the Reserves Act 1977, the areas have been set aside for the benefit and enjoyment of the public because of their natural character and associated intrinsic, amenity and recreational values. These areas include: wildlife habitats, indigenous flora and fauna, and areas of landscape and geological interest.

ISSUE 1	Inappropriate activities and development, including earthworks and the removal of vegetation, may compromise the distinctive character and biodiversity of the District's conservation reserves.
OBJECTIVE 1	To protect the biological and landform features of conservation reserves from any adverse effect of inappropriate activities and development.

POLICIES

- 1A** Activities and development in the Conservation Reserves Zone including buildings, structures, earthworks and the clearance of vegetation should not compromise identified ecosystems, vegetation, habitats, and landform.
- 1B** Any building, structure, pathway or other facility within a conservation reserve should be located, designed and if necessary screened with vegetation and coloured in natural tonings to complement the dominant tonings of the surrounding landscape.
- 1C** Opportunities for appropriate public access including any associated development such as the formation of tracks, viewing structures and facilities may be provided where these are consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the identified biological and landform features.

EXPLANATION AND REASONS

The purpose and principles in Part II of the Act and the matters of national importance in Section 6 require the Council, in exercising functions and powers under the Act, to recognise, provide for and have particular regard to a range of

matters. These include the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development, the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.

The Department of Conservation has undertaken a detailed survey of the ecology of Banks Peninsula. Features and areas of significance within the District are identified in that report. Those identified conservation reserves, which are on land owned and controlled by the Council, or the Department of Conservation have been included in the Conservation Reserves Zone. These areas are of particular significance to Banks Peninsula and, in some cases, to New Zealand.

Conservation reserves are particularly sensitive to inappropriate activities and development. Accordingly, any activities or development within the Zone should not have adverse effects on the distinctive character and/or biological diversity of these areas. In particular, the provisions of this chapter seek to prevent activities where these would be incongruous with the character of the surrounding natural environment, or where the scale of development would result in a visual dominance (in size and/or number) of buildings and structures in the landscape.

METHODS TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

- The inclusion in the Conservation Reserves Zone of identified areas of biological and landscape significance which are owned by Council or the Department of Conservation.
- Plan rules which protect land in the Zone from the adverse effects of inappropriate activities and development.
- Reserve management plans.
- Community planting days.
- Provision of educational material on species and reserves etc.
- 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.
- SRMP to consider 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.

REFERENCE TO THE SUMMIT ROAD (CANTERBURY) PROTECTION ACT

- The provisions of the Summit Road (Canterbury) Protection Act apply to land within the area from the Summit to 30 vertical metres below the Summit Road between Gebbies Pass and Evans Pass (refer to the Act, and any subsequent Acts, and the gazette notice).

RULES**1. Permitted Activities**

The following are permitted activities where they meet the conditions set out in Rule 3 (below):

- a) The establishment of buildings, structures, pathways and other facilities associated with access to and the management, maintenance and enhancement of natural areas.
- b) Conservation activities.

2. Controlled Activities**Relocated Buildings**

For relocated building activity compliance with the following standards and terms is required for the activity to be a controlled activity:

- a) Compliance with all other relevant rules in this Plan.

2.1 Resource Consent Conditions

In considering an application for a controlled activity for a relocated building the Council may impose conditions in relation to the following matters:

- The likely appearance of the building upon restoration or alteration, and its compatibility with buildings on adjoining properties and in the vicinity.
- The exterior materials used, and their condition and quality.
- The period required for restoration work to be undertaken.
- Any requirements to impose a bond or other condition to ensure completion of restoration work to an acceptable standard.

3. Conditions for Permitted Activities and Standards for Controlled Activities**3.1 Height**

Maximum height of buildings and structures – 6 metres.

3.2 Yards – Minimum

No building or part of a building shall be erected within the following yards:

Front	-	7.5 metres
Side/rear	-	3 metres
Yards fronting a State Highway	-	20 metres

No erection of any building, structure or earthworks shall be undertaken within 20 metres of any Surface Water Body.

3.3 Site Coverage

Maximum – 10% of net site area or 250m² whichever is the lesser.

3.4 Clearance of Indigenous Vegetation

There shall be no clearance of indigenous vegetation.

3.5 Earthworks

Earthworks undertaken in any continuous period of five years shall not exceed the following dimensions:

- 50 m³ (volume) or 100 m² (area) per site where a site is 1 hectare or less in area;
- or
- 50 m³ (volume) or 100 m² (area) per hectare where a site is greater than 1 hectare in area;
- and
- shall not have a face height greater than 1.2m.

3.6 Visual Effects

The establishment of buildings, structures, pathways and other facilities shall be located, designed, and if necessary screened with vegetation, and coloured in natural tonings to complement the dominant tones of the surrounding landscape, to minimise the visual effects.

4. Restricted Discretionary Activities

An application must be made for a restricted discretionary activity for any activity included in the list of permitted and controlled activities which does not comply with the conditions for permitted and standards for controlled activities in Rule 3 (above).

4.1 Resource Consent Conditions

In granting a resource consent the Council shall restrict the exercise of its discretion to the conditions for permitted activities and the standards for controlled activities with which the proposal fails to comply.

5. Non-Complying Activities

Any activity not otherwise specified as a permitted, controlled, or restricted discretionary activity is a non-complying activity.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

The following environmental results are anticipated from the implementation of the objectives and policies relating to the Conservation Reserves Zone:

- Protection and enhancement of the District's ecological heritage.
- The conservation and enhancement of ecological, scientific, landscape, botanical cultural, heritage and functional values of these reserves.
- Control of development and impacts of public use in reserves, in a manner, which ensures their character, is enhanced or remains substantially unchanged.