

APPENDIX 1

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

Change 8: Outstanding Natural Landscapes Decisions Version

**Decisions made by the Hearings Committee and
adopted by the Regional Strategy and Planning
Committee, 6 October 2010.**

Publicly Notified 27 October 2010

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

6.1 Introduction

Additions or deletions arising from decisions on the landscape component of Change 8 are shown in green underline or strikethrough. Text in plain black is text from the operative chapter as amended by the Council's October 2007 decisions on Part 1: Volcanic Features. Text in black underline or strikethrough shows the material that comprised the publicly notified text of Change 8.

Numbers in square brackets [xx/1] refer to relevant submissions.

Auckland's heritage involves those aspects of both the natural and cultural environment that have been inherited from the past, define the present and will be handed on to future generations. Auckland has a unique and distinctive physical setting and natural environment. The rich resources of the Region have attracted human settlement for approximately 1000 years. Throughout this period the natural environment has been extensively modified by human activities. Thus the natural and cultural resources of the Region are inextricably linked. Auckland's heritage is a dynamic resource that ~~which~~ changes spatially and over time as natural systems evolve and humans impact on the environment. [Clause 16]

While particular aspects of the natural environment have values as heritage resources, the maintenance of the intrinsic values and quality of ecosystems is generally fundamental to the continued survival of those more valued components.

The natural heritage of Auckland includes: indigenous flora and fauna, terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems and habitats, landforms, geological features, soils and the natural character of the coastline. Auckland's cultural heritage includes: sites, places, place names, areas, waahi tapu, waahi tapu areas, taonga, buildings, objects, artefacts, natural features of cultural and historical significance, historical associations, people and institutions. Some of these resources have been highly modified and depleted, yet they contain heritage that is of national and international significance, and are one of the best chronological records of human settlement in New Zealand.

The natural and cultural heritage associated with the coastal environment

and the volcanic field in particular has always been of central importance in creating the sense of place that is Auckland.

The long and relatively narrow shape of mainland Auckland, with its rugged west coast and more sheltered eastern shoreline and the presence of numerous islands in the Hauraki Gulf mean a significant area of the Auckland Region is within the coastal environment. This area is valued for its areas of high natural character and outstanding natural landscapes. Being a favoured place for both Maori and European settlement, the coastal environment is also overlaid by places of cultural and historic importance.

~~The entire CMA is overlaid by places of cultural and historic importance to both Tangata Whenua and European alike (refer to Chapter 7 – Coastal Environment).~~

The natural, physical, historic and cultural importance of the Hauraki Gulf, its islands and catchments is recognised by the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000. Ensuring that this interrelationship continues in a way that sustains the life supporting capacity of the environment of the Gulf and its islands is a matter of national significance. [Clause 16]

Auckland's sense of place is also defined by its volcanic field of which the volcanic cones are the most well known features. They are key components of the cultural identity of many Aucklanders and have been identified as Outstanding Natural Features in map series 3a. These features often form part of the wider landscape values of an area, but their identification as Outstanding Natural Features recognises that they are of geological and scientific significance in their own right, as well as having amenity values and being of particular spiritual value to iwi of the region. Other geological features currently listed in Appendix B are also recognised as being Regionally Significant Volcanic Features. [Clause 16]

Natural and cultural heritage resources also form the basis of Auckland's landscape. Landscape comprises the interaction of landform, land cover and land use and is the result of the cumulative impacts of natural physical and sometimes human cultural

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

processes. Visual appreciation of the landscape is also influenced by people's visual perception; whether it is pleasing or not to look at. The interaction of the physical and the perceptual aspects of landscape are of central importance in creating the distinctive character and sense of place of the Auckland Region. These factors are also included in nationally accepted landscape assessment criteria. Auckland's Outstanding Natural Landscapes have been assessed using these national criteria. (See Appendix F).

[49/2, 49/3, 112/3]

Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the Region, and other landscapes of amenity value, cultural significance, or representative of the character of an area, are part of the Region's heritage resources, but their maintenance and enhancement of the Region's landscape is a concern which arises in all parts of the Region. However consideration of landscape character and the visual effects of land use and development and change [31/4] on landscape in general should be an integral part of managing the Region's natural and physical resources, whether or not development affects Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

[Submissions in Topic 5.5]

This chapter addresses the management of subdivision, use and development in the region's landscapes in a variety of ways. The assessment of the attributes and qualities of Outstanding Natural Landscapes are contained in Appendix F, and inform both the Outstanding Natural Landscape policies and the areas shown on Map Series 3a. However information and policy direction on indigenous biodiversity values and significance, and cultural heritage sites and places is also contained in this chapter and in Appendix B of this RPS. While this other information addresses RM Act section 6 (c) and (f) matters, it also helps to inform wider landscape management decisions. The identification and management of landscapes with amenity values is also addressed in this chapter, while Chapter 2 deals with the urban design components of our urban landscapes.

[16/1, 15/2, 31/5, 40/3]

The management of the biophysical components of landscape are addressed

in the objectives and policies of this chapter relating to Natural and Cultural Heritage and in the other resource specific chapters of this RPS. Changes in the landscape attributes and visual quality of the Region's non-urban landscapes are addressed in the landscape policies of this chapter. The quality of the Region's urban landscapes is addressed in the Urban Design policies of Chapter 2.

The heritage resources of the Auckland Region offer a wide variety of social, economic and recreational opportunities, and are primary factors in shaping its development. Auckland's unique heritage is central to the identity of communities, groups and individuals in the Region and is of fundamental importance to Tangata Whenua. It creates the sense of place that is Auckland and engenders a sense of belonging.

This chapter addresses the preservation and protection of heritage resources and is based upon the requirements of sections 5, 6 and 7 of the RM Act. It is intended to provide for sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations (RM Act section 5(2) (a)). It is also a response to the requirement to recognise and provide for, or have particular regard to, the following matters:

- the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development (RM Act section 6 (a));
- the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development (RM Act section 6(b));
- the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna (RM Act section 6(c));
- the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the CMA, lakes and rivers (RM Act section 6(d));

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

- the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga (RM Act section 6(e));
- the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development (RM Act section 6(f));
- Kaitiakitanga (RM Act section 7(a));
- the ethic of stewardship (RM Act section 7 (aa));
- the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values (RM Act section 7(c));
- intrinsic values of ecosystems (RM Act section 7(d));
- ~~Recognition and protection of the heritage values of sites, buildings, places or areas (RM Act section 7(e))~~
- the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment (RM Act section 7(f));
- ~~the any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources (RM Act section 7(g)).~~
- the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy (RM Act section 7 (j)).
[24/3, 88/2]

Section 30 (1) also gives regional councils responsibility for:

- (ga) the establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies and methods for maintaining indigenous biological diversity.

Chapter 2 provides the strategic direction for the development and operation of regionally significant infrastructure and chapter 5 deals with regional energy matters. [26/9] However there is the potential for operators of important renewable energy generating facilities such as wind turbines and other types of regionally significant infrastructure to want to locate in Outstanding Natural Landscapes. This means that guidance

on how landscape protection and provision for regionally significant infrastructure should be considered is provided in the landscape provisions of this chapter. [16/3, 40/5, 24/4, 16/2, 40/4]

Other chapters of this regional policy statement have objectives, policies and methods that may affect specific objectives, policies and methods of this chapter. This means that this RPS needs to be read as a whole, having particular regard to Chapter 2: Regional Overview and Strategic Direction. Other chapters that influence the application of the objectives, policies and methods of this chapter are 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 18. For example, Chapter 7: Coastal Environment also contains objectives and policies relating to Outstanding Natural Landscapes of the coast. These provisions should be considered in conjunction with the landscape provisions of this chapter, when dealing with subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment.

[16/3, 40/5, 24/4, 16/2, 40/4, 48/4, 26/9]

~~Other chapters of this regional policy statement contribute to and reinforce the objective, policies and methods of this chapter. In particular this chapter should be read in conjunction with Chapters 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 18.~~

6.2 Issues

Issue 6.2.7: Landscape

The quality and diversity of Auckland's landscapes is being reduced by adverse individual and cumulative adverse effects of subdivision, use and development.

[49/4, 20/4, 16/4, 87/5, 40/6, 21/2, 49/6, 15/4]

Auckland's volcanic cones, its urban, rural, [59/5] coastal, estuarine [91/4] and island landscapes and maritime views provide an important reference point and sense of identity for the people of the Region. Although some of the landscapes of the Auckland Region are heavily settled in comparison to other parts of New Zealand, and generally are not pristine, a number of areas have been identified as Outstanding Natural Landscapes within the context of this region. (see Map Series 3a). [31/7]

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

Other landscapes may be important for their landscape character, visual amenity values or valued cultural identity at the district or local level. Their identification and management is the most appropriately undertaken by district plans and the regional coastal plan. However collectively they contribute to the quality and diversity of landscapes at the regional level. [37/10, 13/13]

Natural landscapes are also important contributors to the natural character of the coastal environment. Areas of high natural character in the Auckland Region are often Outstanding Natural Landscapes. Landscapes of all types contribute to the quality of life within the Auckland Region and the context within which people use and enjoy their environment. A diversity of good quality landscapes both natural and modified provides places for people to undertake economic, social and recreational activities, as well as being important for regional and national tourism. [51/8]

~~The quality of the Region's landscape is threatened by development and changing land use activities, patterns which reflect changing economic opportunities, social needs and cultural values.~~

The Auckland Region's rich and varied landscape includes:

- (i) ~~the visually dominant volcanic cones unique cone formations which that are now signature features visual evidence of the Region's volcanic heritage and identity;~~
- (ii) the internationally unique volcanic field on which the North Shore, Auckland and Manukau urban areas are founded and which is represented by a number of natural features of national and/or regional geological significance and locally important landscape value, such as Tank Farm (Tuff Crater), Lake Pupuke, Orakei Basin, Crater Hill and Pukaki Lagoon; and [clause 16]
- (iii) the iconic indigenous rainforest and landforms of the Waitakere Ranges and the associated eastern foothills that provide ecological linkages with the Ranges and contribute a sense of contrast and a buffer between metropolitan Auckland and the Ranges. The water catchment lakes,

dams and related water supply infrastructure that provide essential services to the region. All these components, as well as the characteristics identified in (iii) below now comprise the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area in recognition of its national significance and its contribution to the natural and cultural heritage of the region; [87/6. 37/4]

- (iv) the spectacle of the West Coast margins of the Waitakere Ranges, that comprise with shorn cliffs and extensive indigenous vegetation interspersed with framing the black sands and surf of Piha, Karekare and other beaches and settlements; places that now have iconic status for much of the regional community; [clause 16]
- (v) the long, straight, black sand beach from Muriwai to South Kaipara head, backed by sand dunes, parkland and exotic forest and terminating in the high dunes and spit at Papakanui; [Clause 16]
- (vi) the more passive and contained embayments of the eastern Rodney coastline, with dramatic headlands and remnant coastal forest and dune systems, framing some of Auckland's popular most heavily used recreational beaches, giving way to more remote and exposed beaches at Pakiri and Te Arai;
- (vii) the complex landscapes of inland Rodney dominated by an increasingly diverse mix of pastoral farming, forestry, vineyards, numerous remnants of indigenous forest, production activities and scattered buildings on rolling terrain; [40/7]
- (viii) The contrasting expansive vistas of the large western harbours (Manukau and Kaipara) with their extensive intertidal flats, sand banks and meandering channels and narrow entrances guarded by headlands and shifting sand bars and their regional, national and international significance as bird habitats; [94/1 and 81/4]
- (ix) the contrast between the relatively narrow, urbanised and busy lower Waitemata Harbour with its focus on the port, commercial hub and the harbour bridge, and the middle and

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

- upper reaches with their important natural areas. These areas include extensive saltmarsh, wetlands and tidal inlets, shore bird habitats and unique shell bank associations, alongside escarpments and hill sides of indigenous vegetation; [27/4]
- (x) the diverse topography of coastal flats, lowlands, basins, rolling land and steep hills of the Manukau and Papakura areas, dominated by pasture and scattered stands of indigenous vegetation, with more extensive areas of exotic forestry on the steeper land, some significant quarries and rural residential development in some locations throughout; [40/7, 5/1]
- (xi) the richly productive rural landscapes of the Franklin lowlands;
- (xii) the forest covered hills of the Hunua Ranges and its adjoining foothills, with and the vegetation corridors linking to the coastal margins of the Firth of Thames with its and the water catchment lakes, dams and related water supply infrastructure; [87/7]
- (xiii) the complex landscapes of Rodney which include widely varied rural activities, strong landforms, and numerous remnants of indigenous vegetation;
- (xiv) the deeply indented eastern coastlines;
- (xv) the diverse form and pattern of the islands of the Hauraki Gulf and the seascapes to and from these islands, their importance for biodiversity conservation and their role as significant components of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park;
- (xvi) the extensive and changing form of Auckland's built environment, as a prominent feature the defining characteristic of the region's landscape, with its diversity of building quality, type and density. Its built form includes high rise commercial and residential towers, established heritage and character areas, new single suburban houses and a multiplicity of commercial and industrial buildings. Significant visual identifiers are provided by the Auckland CBD including the

Skytower, the Harbour Bridge, the Ports of Auckland, Auckland International Airport and the urban motorway system, interspersed with green corridors, open space and urban streams. The region's built environment also includes a patchwork of small rural, coastal and island towns and settlements; [20/5 and 48/11]

- (xvii) the complex diverse and changing form and density of urban Auckland.

Further information on the Region's rural, coastal and island landscapes that are Outstanding Natural Landscapes is contained in Appendix F. An area around Titirangi-Laingholm, although within the Metropolitan Urban Limits retains levels of naturalness that make it an Outstanding Natural Landscape and this area is recognised in the appendix. Urban design provisions are contained in Chapter 2. [37/5]

The unique character, quality and diversity of the Region's landscapes are affected by development and changing land use activities, patterns that reflect changing economic opportunities, social needs and cultural values.

6.2.7.1: Outstanding Natural Landscapes

The naturalness of Outstanding Natural Landscapes is being adversely affected diminished by inappropriate changes in subdivision, use and development changes in land use and increasing levels of human modification, in particular by rural residential development countryside living and coastal development. [24/6]

Outstanding Natural Landscapes of the Auckland region are those that are characterised by a high level of naturalness and which are visually attractive. They include areas that are characterised by both endemic elements, particularly the presence of indigenous vegetation and by strong landforms; as well areas that are more cultured and picturesque, where pastoral land and some types of exotic vegetation are important visual elements. The interrelationship between geology, landform and ecological factors means that these landscapes have high aesthetic

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

values and are visually expressive. Many islands in the Hauraki Gulf and significant areas of the mainland's coastal environment are also Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

The key indicator determinant of an Outstanding Natural Landscape is the absence of significant built development, or where it is present it is subservient to the dominance of natural elements and does not reduce the overall naturalness and visual coherence of the landscape. The absence of built development and the dominance of natural elements are also key determinants of natural character values in the coastal environment and in wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins. Further information on Outstanding Natural Landscapes, including their assessment in terms of nationally accepted landscape assessment criteria, is contained in Appendix F and Map Series 3a. [49/7]

Activities such as urban development, land clearance, mining and quarrying, ~~extensive exotic afforestation, intensive horticulture~~ or the development of significant built structures, including houses, coastal protection works, roads, transmission lines, power generation structures and other infrastructure may result in an increase in the level of modification in the landscape and an associated reduction in naturalness. [Submissions in Topic 5.4]

Apart from Department of Conservation estate, significant local reserves and conservation areas in the regional park network, much of the Auckland Region's landscape is a working landscape that changes over time. Changes in rural production mean changes in rural landscape as pastoral land is replaced by horticulture or viticulture, or stocking regimes change, with their different fencing and building requirements. Significant areas of the region's Outstanding Natural Landscapes include pastoral land, where structures such as farm houses, fences, pumphouses and farm sheds, and land management practices including revegetation of retired land are part of the working landscape. Generally the nature and scale of these structures or land management practices mean that they do not have significant adverse effects on the naturalness of the

Outstanding Natural Landscape.
[Submissions listed in Topic 5.4]

Of particular significance in the Auckland Region is the expansion and intensification of rural residential subdivision (countryside living) in rural, island and coastal areas. This results in increasing numbers and sizes of houses, the presence of associated structures such as garages, driveways and hard landscaping areas, infrastructure to service the houses and land modification for building platforms or to obtain vehicular access in Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

Countryside Living continues to intensify in much of the coastal environment of the Auckland Region, except for the more remote areas in north west Rodney and the western coastline of Awhitu Peninsula. North-east Rodney has been the major focus of this development and this trend continues with this part of the Region being under the most pressure for further subdivision. Pressure for further coastal subdivision has extended to include the Firth of Thames coastline, Waiheke and Great Barrier Islands. In the Waitakere Ranges there is a desire for countryside living rural residential lifestyles in areas with high natural landscape values in close proximity to the urban area. This threatens to undermine those values. [37/9]

Regionally and nationally significant infrastructure, such as bulk water supply dams and pipelines, energy transmission lines and major highways, as well as regionally important mineral resources are located in or near some Outstanding Natural Landscape areas. Maintenance and upgrading or redevelopment of this infrastructure is necessary to ensure its continued efficient operation. The adverse physical and visual effects of these activities on an Outstanding Natural Landscape can vary depending on the type and scale of the maintenance, upgrading or redevelopment work. [24/2]

It is likely that new regionally significant infrastructure will wish to locate in or near an Outstanding Natural Landscape. This is particularly relevant in the case of renewable energy generation proposals such as wind turbines that require elevated locations to operate. The same areas comprise many of the region's Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

Extractive industries may also want to locate within or expand into an Outstanding Natural Landscape because of the presence of a mineral resource. [16/5, 7/5, 24/7, 96/6 40/9]

There is a need to make an overall judgement about how best to achieve sustainable management of the region's natural and physical resources, in terms of the protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and the provision of regionally significant infrastructure. Guidance on the matters to be considered in coming to this overall judgement is provided in both the policies relating to Outstanding Natural Landscapes in this chapter and in the Regional Overview and Strategic Direction of Chapter 2 of this RPS. [Submissions in Topic 5.7]

There is the need to balance the physical and operational requirements of infrastructure and mineral extraction, and the regional economic and social benefits of these activities against the protection of outstanding natural landscapes. [87/1, 40/7, 16/5, 7/5, 24/7, 96/6, 40/9]

6.2.7.2

~~The visual qualities and landscape characteristics that make other landscapes important for their amenity value, cultural identity, or provide a sense of place at the local, district or regional level are being eroded by subdivision, use and development which is inappropriate in terms of its type, scale, density, location or design. [Submissions listed in Topic 5.5.2]~~

6.2.7.2 Amenity Landscapes

There are other rural, coastal, island and urban areas of the region that are not Outstanding Natural Landscapes but which contribute to the region's amenity values. Subdivision, use and development has the potential both to enhance and degrade these amenity values, depending on how it is undertaken.

Auckland's amenity landscapes include well known areas such as the beaches, coastal cliffs and urban development along Tamaki Drive, the east coast beaches of the North Shore and the foothills of the Waitakere Ranges. [20/6] Other urban, rural, coastal and island landscapes are more commonplace but are an important part of individual and

community, as well as regional amenity values. Landscapes with good amenity values are also ~~They are~~ normally working landscapes, undergoing change and used for a wide variety of urban and rural purposes and regional and local infrastructure. Some significant landscape changes occurring in the region are associated with ~~these landscapes are~~ undergoing change as a result of urban development and intensification, the continued expansion of countryside living in the rural areas and the development of regional infrastructure to meet local, regional and national needs.

The maintenance and enhancement of the amenity values of the landscapes is consistent with section 7(c) of the RMA. [37/10]. This means that negative landscape impacts need to be identified and avoided or appropriately managed to maintain important amenity values.

Some landscapes can accommodate change better than others, and retain their landscape character and amenity values. Factors that influence how adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated include: the type of topography, the form and extent of vegetation cover, the role of ridgelines, enhancement of stream corridors and open space areas and the options for harmonising buildings into the landscape. Landscape restoration and enhancement initiatives, including indigenous revegetation of areas can assist this process. Managing adverse effects is required to ensure the retention of important landscape elements, processes and patterns that individually and in composite give an area its amenity values.

[40/10, 13/13, 16/6, 15/5, 49/8]

~~The visual qualities and landscape characteristics that make other landscapes important for their amenity value, cultural identity or provide a sense of place at the local, district or regional level are being eroded by subdivision, use and development which is inappropriate in terms of its type, scale, density, location or design.~~

There are a diversity of other landscapes in the Auckland Region, that have important ecological and amenity values, or which are valued because of their cultural identity and sense of place for the local, district or regional community (Highly Valued Landscapes). Some of these landscapes

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

include Tamaki Drive, the coastal edge of North Shore's east coast beaches, the Waitakere Ranges foothills, the rural, village and east coast landscapes of Rodney District and the diversity of other landscapes identified earlier in this section. These landscapes are experiencing change as a result of residential growth and the continued expansion of countryside living throughout the Region.

In the rural areas changes in land use from pastoral farming to exotic forestry or viticulture can introduce new patterns and structures into the landscape.

Some of these landscapes can accommodate change better than others, and retain the landscape character and visual qualities that make them valued in the first instance.

However change within these landscapes needs to be managed to ensure the retention of the important landscape elements, features and patterns, which individually and in composite give the area its visual and landscape character.

6.2.7.3 Adverse Cumulative Effects

Landscape quality and diversity and the inherent endemic characteristics that give Auckland's regional landscape its sense of place are being lost by the adverse cumulative effects of subdivision, use and development landuse changes throughout the Region. [21/4]

The cumulative effects of all types of subdivision, use and development are progressively changing the rural, coastal and island landscapes of the Auckland Region. These landscapes are dynamic and subject to different types and rates of change, including those associated with rural production or environmental restoration enhancement activities. These changes may continue to support Outstanding Natural Landscapes or amenity landscapes. However other landuse changes, particularly more intensive subdivision of land for countryside living purposes and environmental restoration can have adverse cumulative effects on rural, island and coastal landscape quality and diversity. [5/5, 49/9]

While landscapes are dynamic and subject to change,

Inadequate consideration of and response to adverse cumulative effects can result in a reduction or loss of naturalness in Outstanding Natural Landscapes as fewer, character or wilderness areas [13/4] that remain free from the presence of significant built structures. They can also give rise to and in a homogenisation of the landscape and a loss of the key characteristics which make a landscape distinct to our Region. Cumulative loss of landscape quality and diversity can occur within a local area, or within the district or across the whole of the Region.

6.2.7.4 Landscape Management

Physical constraints and land management practices can adversely affect the quality of all landscape types. Restoration and enhancement of the land can improve landscape quality. However enhancement techniques associated with subdivision bonuses can introduce further built elements into the landscape, which can change landscape character.

Topography and soil conditions and land management practices have the potential to reduce the physical and visual quality of all types of landscape. Eroded pastoral land, the spread of animal pests, weeds and wilding species affect the quality, health and diversity of all landscapes, even though their effects may not be visually prominent.

Land improvement practices are undertaken by landowners for a wide variety of reasons. Some initiatives are tied to subdivision incentives, with the retirement of erosion prone land, or the revegetation of pastoral land with indigenous species being the most common. The actions can have positive environmental benefits if correctly implemented and maintained and can enhance the visual quality of the landscape. However such incentives are normally associated with the addition of houses and their ancillary structures into the landscape. The addition of these further built elements into the landscape may give rise to adverse effects on will detract from natural character and natural landscape values and give rise to its own

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

set of landscape effects, as discussed in Issues 6.2.7.1 to 6.2.7.3 above.
[37/12, 96/7, 108/9, 21/5, 96/8, 24/8]

Issue 6.2.8: Management of Heritage Resources

A precautionary approach to management may be appropriate because of the cumulative effects of past destruction, the irreversibility of many of these effects, a lack of accurate and reliable information, and the continuing threat to heritage. Many of the significant heritage resources remaining in the Auckland Region occur on private land. This is particularly the case for indigenous forest areas, gardens, trees in urban areas, wetlands, archaeological sites and historic structures. Thus, to ensure the retention of a diverse and representative range of heritage in the Region, it will be necessary to institute and promote a flexible approach that incorporates a wide variety of management techniques.

6.3 Objectives

Objectives 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3 and 6.3.8 remain as in the Operative ARPS (1999) and Objectives 6.3.6 and 6.3.7 are amended by the decisions version of Change 8: Volcanic Features (2007).

4. To protect Outstanding Natural Landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

5 To maintain the overall quality and diversity of character and sense of place of the landscapes of the Auckland Region.

6 To recognise some Outstanding Natural Landscapes as working landscapes and to enable appropriate activities that are consistent with the Regional Strategic Direction in this RPS.

[16/7, 24/9, 119/2, 96/9, also submissions in Topic 5.4]

Provisions 6.4.1 – 6.4.18 are not amended by this decision on the Landscape provisions of Change 8. They remain as in the operative ARPS or as amended through the decisions version of Change 8 (Volcanic Features, October 2007).

6.4.2219: Policies: Landscape.

The following policies and methods give effect to Objectives 6.3.4, 6.3.5, 6.3.6 and 6.3.9-8.

1 Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in Map Series 3a and described in Appendix F shall be protected by ensuring subdivision, use and development in these areas is appropriate in terms of its type, scale, intensity and location, and is undertaken in such a way that it:

(i) maintains the primacy of naturalness in these landscapes and ensures that built elements are subservient to this naturalness;

(ii) maintains the visual coherence and integrity of the landscape;

(iii) maintains or enhances significant natural landforms, natural processes and significant vegetation areas and patterns;

(v) maintains the visual or physical qualities that which make the landscape iconic, rare or scarce at the national, regional or district level;

(vi) manages adverse effects on the components of the natural character of the coastal environment consistent with Policy 7.4.4;

(vii) avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the natural character of wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins, with particular regard being given to the avoidance of significant adverse effects on those wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins specifically identified for their natural values in regional and district plans;

(viii) recognises and provides for ongoing primary rural production, (excluding large scale factory farming) and land management activities as part of a working landscape, particularly in outstanding

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

natural landscapes where pastoral land dominates;

[Submissions listed in Topic 5.4.1, 70/2, 51/2, 48/99, 64/7, 51/4, 90/1, 101/2, 104/1, 66/4, 97/1, 79/4]

(ix) accommodates regionally significant infrastructure and mineral extraction, where it these meets the requirements of Policies 6.4.22.8 and 9;
[Submissions listed in Topic 5.7]

(x) enables the operation of existing mineral extraction sites provided that;

(a) adverse visual effects on the Outstanding Natural Landscape are avoided, remedied or mitigated;

(b) further expansion of extraction activities into an Outstanding Natural Landscape is avoided, unless there are no practicable alternatives;

(c) management and rehabilitation plans for the extraction site are commensurate with the degree of adverse effects on the natural landscape values of any affected Outstanding Natural Landscape;
[Submissions listed in Topic 5.7]

(xi) avoids adverse cumulative effects and is consistent with Policy 6.4.22.4. [48/49, 48/50]

(xii) supports is contrary to the achievement of long term certainty in the management of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Highly Valued Landscapes through regional or district plan provisions.
[48/49, 48/50, 13/57]

(xiii) is consistent with the Strategic Objectives and the Strategic Policies for Urban Containment and Rural Areas Rural Development Control policies and the associated methods of Chapter 2 of this RPS. [13/58,

24/18, 44/6, 31/9, 48/51, 54/9, 53/9 and 55/9]

[Explanatory note: Policy 6.4.22.1 above incorporates parts of notified policies 6.4.22.1, 6.4.22.2, 6.4.22.4 and 6.4.22.8]

~~1 Any subdivision, use and development in Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in Map Series 3A, shall ensure that high levels of naturalness are maintained and visually intrusive built elements or land uses are avoided.~~

~~2 Outstanding Natural Landscapes located in the coastal environment or near wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins shall be protected by:~~

~~(i) Avoiding subdivision and the introduction of built structures in these areas, particularly where little or no subdivision or built structures presently exist.~~

~~(ii) Protecting the components of natural character consistent with Policy 7.4.4.~~

[96/13, 108/10, 16/9, 31/20, 21/7, 87.23, 490/14, 48/39, 64/2, 31/21, 13/49, 13/50, 48/41, 24/13, 15/7, 44/3, 42/3, 31/22]

~~2 In amenity landscapes significant landscape elements, processes and patterns shall be maintained and where practicable enhanced, where they :~~

~~(i) Contribute positively to the character and quality of the landscape and to its amenity value including its aesthetic coherence;~~

~~(ii) Avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse visual and amenity effects of subdivision, use and development.~~

[Explanatory note: Policy 6.4.22.2 is based on operative policy 6.4.19.2 with modifications]

~~3 Subdivision, use and development in Highly Valued Landscapes shall ensure that key elements, features and patterns in the landscape are~~

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

~~identified and protected, so that their contribution to the visual amenity, the sense of place or landscape character of the area is maintained and enhanced.~~

~~[37/6, 5/12, 38/6, 39/1, 24/14, 55/2, 53/2, 54/2, 38/8, 39/3, 13/51, 48/42, 13/52, 31/35]~~

~~4 The naturalness of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and the landscape qualities of Highly Valued Landscapes shall be protected by:~~

~~(i) maintaining the visual coherence and integrity of the landscape;~~

~~(ii) maintaining significant natural landforms, natural processes and significant vegetation patterns;~~

~~(iii) ensuring that any subdivision, use or development is necessary and is of a type, scale, intensity and location that does not adversely affect the naturalness of Outstanding Natural Landscapes or the key elements, features and patterns of High Valued Landscapes.~~

~~[39/2, 39/5, 24/15, 38/7, 38/9, 54/5, 55/5, 53/5, 54/6, 53/5, 54/6, 53/6, 55/6, 16/28, 40/25, 40/25, 40/26, 40/27, 40/28, 37/17, 26/7]~~

~~3 Subdivision, use and development in landscapes adjoining Outstanding Natural Landscapes should have regard to its adverse physical and visual effects on the Outstanding Natural Landscape and should manage these effects to:~~

~~(i) maintain significant landforms and indigenous vegetation and habitats that are also significant elements or patterns in the Outstanding Natural Landscape to protect the visual and biophysical linkages between the two areas;~~

~~(ii) avoid locating significant built elements on the boundary with an Outstanding Natural Landscape, and in particular~~

~~Outstanding Natural Landscapes within:~~

~~(a) regional parks;~~

~~(b) Department of Conservation estate;~~

~~(c) significant local reserves;~~

~~(d) the coastal marine area.~~

~~(iii) maintain subdivision densities or maintain the type and scale of development that are transitional and act as a buffer between Outstanding Natural Landscapes and more intensive development in urban areas, having regard to the existing scale and extent of development~~

~~[Submissions listed in Topic 5.6]~~

~~5 Areas that have physical or visual connections to Outstanding Natural Landscapes shall be managed to maintain these connections and to ensure that the qualities of Outstanding Natural Landscapes are not adversely affected by inappropriate subdivision, use and development in adjacent areas.~~

~~[11/17, 48/102, 49/16, 85/3, 46/47, 53/3, 54/3, 51/12, 31/25, 67/6, 96/14, 24/16]~~

~~6 In determining whether an area has physical or visual connections to Outstanding Natural Landscapes the presence of any of the following matters are relevant:~~

~~(i) important public views to an Outstanding Natural Landscape from adjacent areas;~~

~~(ii) important public access to Outstanding Natural Landscapes from adjacent areas;~~

~~(iii) significant landforms and/or vegetation that physically connects Outstanding Natural Landscapes with adjacent areas;~~

~~(iv) existing subdivision densities that are transitional and act as a buffer between Outstanding Natural Landscapes and more~~

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

~~intensive development in urban areas.~~

[54/23, 55/23, 53/4, 49/18, 31/26, 55/4, 54/4, 53/23, 48/48, 7/4]

~~7—The cumulative adverse effects of subdivision, use and development shall be avoided in Outstanding Natural Landscapes and shall be avoided, remedied or mitigated in other landscapes.~~

[37/20, 49/20, 31/27, 108/6, 40/29, 54/7, 53/7, 55/7, 16/29, 16/10, 13/56, 15/10, 49/21]

4 In determining whether subdivision, use and development contributes to adverse cumulative adverse effects on Outstanding Natural Landscapes, as required by Policy 6.4.22.1 (xi) an overall judgement shall be made on whether it:

(i) has significant adverse visual and physical effects immediately beyond the boundary of the site; [49/22]

(ii) reduces the visual and aesthetic coherence and integrity of the wider landscape unit;

(iii) reduces landscape quality and diversity of the local area, or within the district, or across the wider Auckland Region;

(iv) if the landscape is iconic, rare or scarce at the national, regional or district level whether the adverse effects result in a loss or a reduction of the landscape qualities that make the area iconic, rare or scarce;

(v) is contrary to the achievement of long term certainty in the management of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Highly Valued Landscapes through regional or district plan provisions. [15/9, 16/2, 53/8, 54/6, 55/8, 39/4, 38/10, 40/14, 87/26, 13/57]

~~9—The protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and the management of the effects of subdivision, use and development in Highly Valued Landscapes shall also ensure that they are consistent with the Strategic Objectives and~~

~~the Urban Containment and Rural Development Control policies and methods of Chapter 2 of this RPS~~
[Submissions listed in Topic 5.14].

510 Restoration and enhancement of degraded landscapes and the management and enhancement of Outstanding Natural Landscapes shall be encouraged through appropriate land management practices. [13/59, 48/52]

611 Subdivision incentives associated with restoration and enhancement initiatives may be appropriate where:

(i) the scale, and intensity of any subdivision is has been demonstrated to be necessary and commensurate with achieving significant environmental benefits;

(ii) built development structures associated with such subdivisions is are able to be visually accommodated without adversely affecting the naturalness of Outstanding Natural Landscapes;

Or the key elements, features and patterns of Highly Valued Landscapes.

(iii) it achieves the environmental outcomes specified in Policy 6.4.22.1 (i) to (vii) and (xi)

(vii) it is consistent with the Strategic Policies for Rural Areas in Policy 2.6.17.1 to 4 of Chapter 2: Regional Overview and Strategic Direction;

(See also Policy 6.4.10: Restoration of natural heritage) [Submissions listed in Topic 5.14]

79. The identification of landscape values on the islands and coastline within the Hauraki Gulf, and their protection and management shall recognise and provide for the management objectives stated in Section 8 of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000.

8 New regionally significant infrastructure in Outstanding Natural Landscapes should

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

achieve the environmental outcomes in Policy 6.4.22.1 (i) to (vii) and (xi) and shall:

- (i) avoid Outstanding Natural Landscapes that are unique, rare or iconic in the Auckland region; [84/14];
- (ii) avoid significant adverse effects on:
 - (a) hilltops and high points that are publicly accessible scenic lookouts, particularly where the infrastructure involves towers, poles, pylon, turbines or other tall structures;
 - (b) high use recreation areas;
 - (c) recognised popular swimming and surfing beaches and vessel anchorage areas;
 - (d) natural lakes and wetlands and their margins identified for their natural values in district and regional plans;
 - (d) landscapes that are predominantly in indigenous vegetation and/or include site specific areas identified in Appendix B for their ecological or geological values;
 - (e) the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area, regional parks, Department of Conservation estate significant local reserves and the coastal marine area;
 - (f) view shafts from specified points in regional parks that are mapped in the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010;

[24/2, 7/6, 16/11, 87/21]

- 9 Where regionally significant infrastructure proposes to locate in an Outstanding Natural

Landscape, the following matters shall be considered in making an overall judgement about the requirements of the infrastructure and the protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes:

- (i) the degree to which the proposed infrastructure implements the strategic infrastructure policies 2.6.14 of Chapter 2: Regional Overview and Strategic Direction;
- (ii) whether the infrastructure is for the generation of renewable electricity, or for the provision of local and community self sufficiency, such as at Great Barrier Island;
- (iii) whether the technical or operational requirements of the infrastructure means that there are no practicable alternative locations outside of the Outstanding Natural Landscape area;
- (iv) the type, scale and extent of adverse effects, including:
 - (a) adverse effects arising from route and/or site selection for the infrastructure;
 - (b) adverse effects arising from design, location and layout of the infrastructure;
 - (c) the extent to which the environmental outcomes listed in Policies 6.4.22.1 and 6.4.22.8 will be achieved;

and the extent to which these adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

- 10 The operation, maintenance and replacement and upgrading of existing regionally significant infrastructure shall be enabled in Outstanding Natural Landscapes, while avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse visual effects on the key landscape elements, patterns and processes of these areas and meeting the environmental outcomes of Policy

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

6.4.22.1 (i) to (vii) and (xi) to the extent practicable:

11 Where upgrading or extensions of existing regionally significant infrastructure will have significant adverse effects on Outstanding Natural Landscapes, it shall be assessed under Policies 6.4.22.8 (ii) and 6.4.22.9.

12 New and upgraded regionally significant infrastructure that has significant adverse visual and physical effects on Outstanding Natural Landscapes shall undertake environmental compensation that may include enhancement of the affected Outstanding Natural Landscape area:

[Submissions listed in Topic 5.7]

6.4.230: Methods: Landscape

1 Councils shall identify Outstanding Natural Landscapes in its RMA plans by relevant techniques that may include mapping, and shall include provisions, including rules to manage subdivision, use and development in these areas in a way that gives effect to Policies 6.4.22.1 to 6.4.22.10.

~~1 Local authorities shall identify in their district and regional plans Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Highly Valued Landscapes that are important in their district, or those areas that are visually or physically related to Outstanding Natural Landscapes and should include provisions, including provisions, including rules that protect the values of these landscape areas.~~

[38/11, 39/6, 24/21, 96/17, 53/11, 54/11, 55/11, 54/12, 53/12, 55/12, 53/13, 54/13, 55/13, 53/14, 55/14, 54/14, 5/15]

2 Councils shall control the subdivision of land in Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in Map Series 3A by using a range of appropriate techniques that may include:

(i) avoiding further subdivision, particularly where Outstanding

Natural Landscapes are also areas of high natural character and areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;

(ii) encouraging the use of existing approved certificates of title, rather than the creation of new subdivisions when establishing subdivision rules in these areas.

(see also Policies 2.6.17- Strategic Policies- Rural Areas of Chapter 5 Regional Overview and Strategic Direction.)

[37/28, 26/8, 49/26, 64/5, 48/58, 48/57, 63/7, 81/7, also submissions listed in Topic 5.15]

~~2 Territorial Authorities shall control the subdivision of land in Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified in Map Series 3A and may chose to control subdivision in Highly Valued Landscapes by~~

~~(i) Prohibiting further subdivision beyond that provided for in district plans~~

3 Councils Local authorities shall use suitable methods in its RMA plans (as relevant to their functions under the RMA) to maintain the landscape quality and diversity of Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and these methods may include:

(i) Controls on the establishment and location of new buildings and other significant structures, including infrastructure and controls on their scale and design (including colour and materials);
[Submissions listed in Topic 5.4.1, 70/2, 51/2, 48/99, 64/8, 67/4, 51/4, 90/1, 101/2, 104/1, 66/4, 97/1, 79/4]

(ii) Controls on the earthworks including their scale and nature, and other land disturbing activities, that

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

may adversely affect important landforms and landscape, and controls on mineral extraction activities where these are proposed within an Outstanding Natural Landscape.[40/18, 51/13, 16/16]

(iii) Controls on the clearance of significant indigenous vegetation;

(iv) Controls to maintain and enhance rivers and streams and their riparian margins for their contribution to landscape quality; [48/64]

(v) Criteria for the assessment of proposals involving the use and development of renewable energy resources or new mineral resources in Outstanding Natural Landscapes. [24/23, 24/22, 24/24, 48/61]

(i) The identification and management of special character, conservation or coastal management areas particularly in urban areas; 96/19, 13/66

(ii) Provisions including rules to address the visual effects of significant land use changes, where such changes have the potential to adversely affect the naturalness of Outstanding Natural Landscapes or the key elements, features and patterns of Highly Valued Landscapes. [96/20, 13/67, 37/29, 79/3]

(vi) The identification of natural features and public views to and from natural features that are significant at the district level; [40/19, 16/23, 88/5]

(vii) The use of mechanisms listed in Method 6.4.2.2 to encourage and support landscape protection, management, restoration and enhancement.

4 Councils may identify in their RMA plans by appropriate methods, other rural, coastal, island and urban landscapes that have high amenity values, and should include provisions that maintain and as appropriate enhance these values. [13/64, also submissions listed in Topic 5.5 and 5.15]

5 Territorial authorities and the Auckland Regional Councils should adopt consistent landscape assessment methodologies to enable integration of landscape assessment findings at the regional and district level and to enable monitoring of changes in landscape quality and diversity across the Auckland Region over time. [48/62]

6.4.241: Reasons: Landscape

Outstanding Natural Landscapes shown in Map Series 3a A have been identified and described in two regional landscape assessments. The first assessment, based on a public preference survey of what types of landscape are outstanding within the context of the Auckland Region, identified two types of Outstanding Natural Landscapes. ~~have been identified.~~ The first type is a "wild nature" landscape, where there is little or no evidence of human presence or modification and indigenous vegetation patterns dominate. These wild nature landscapes include those areas closest to the pristine natural state. The second type of Outstanding Natural Landscape is one where "cultured nature" is evident. An example of a cultured nature Outstanding Natural Landscape is one where there is a picturesque mix of bush and pastoral land. In these instances some types of exotic vegetation, such as mature oak trees and the presence of pasture are viewed as important components of Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

In both wild nature and cultured nature landscapes, the key factor that distinguishes an Outstanding Natural Landscape in the Auckland Region, is the absence of, or the minimal presence of human artefacts or buildings. Where buildings and other structures are present, they are subservient to the overall naturalness of the landscape. Such structures can include those used for normal farming practices such as

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

fences, stockyards, pump houses and barns. [Submissions listed in Topic 5.4.1]

The same landscape units were subsequently assessed using criteria accepted by the Environment Court for the assessment of Outstanding Natural Landscapes. There is a high level of consistency between the results of the two assessments. Explanations of the two landscape assessment methodologies and the assessment results for the ninety-two Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified on Map Series 3a are contained in Appendix F. [49/27]

The landscape assessment methodology used to identify the Outstanding Natural Landscapes identified on Map Series 3a and including the public preference survey and the findings of the assessment project are contained in Appendix F: Auckland Regional Landscape Assessment 2003-04 Explanatory Material.

Objective 6.3.4 reflects the specific requirements of Section 6(b) of the RMA, while Policy 6.4.22.1 provides guidance on what is appropriate subdivision, use and development in Outstanding Natural Landscapes, with a key focus focuses on maintaining high levels of naturalness, the critical distinguishing component of an Outstanding Natural Landscape. This means that any subdivision, use and development needs to be carefully managed in terms of its type, scale, intensity and location to ensure that the introduction of further individual and cumulative built elements does not dominate over the natural characteristics.

Policy 6.4.22.1 also sets out other outcomes that need to be achieved. These include: consideration of natural and physical landscape factors identified in national landscape assessment criteria; identifying specific areas for particular management attention, eg lakes, rivers, wetlands and their margins; acknowledging the role of primary production activities; and requiring consistency between the management subdivision, use and development in Outstanding Natural Landscapes and the overall strategic policies of this RPS.

Method 6.4.23.2 acknowledges the role of land subdivision as the key precursor to the form and intensity of future land use

and development and requires that subdivision be controlled in Outstanding Natural Landscapes. The method provides flexibility as to the type of techniques to be used, but encourages avoidance of further subdivision in areas with multiple RMA section 6 values.

The use of existing approved Certificates of Title for new development, rather than the subdivision of further lots is also encouraged in all Outstanding Natural Landscapes.

However many Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the region, particularly those characterised by cultured nature, are also working landscapes, used for a range of primary production purposes, extractive industries and regional infrastructure. Primary production activities are recognised as being part of an Outstanding Natural Landscape in Policy 6.4.22.1 (ix) and the operation of existing mineral extraction sites is provided for in Policy 6.4.22.1(x). Policies 6.4.22.8 to 6.4.22.12 provide guidance on how the requirements of regionally significant infrastructure should be assessed against the protection of Outstanding Natural Landscape values.

In some Outstanding Natural Landscapes there may be little or no ability to absorb built elements or structured land uses such as extensive exotic forestry or intensive horticulture without the land becoming domesticated. In these areas stringent controls on subdivision or visually inappropriate development and uses are necessary.

Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the Region are often also areas of high natural character. Hence the management of subdivision, use and development in these areas focuses on maintaining the dominance of nature, rather than dominance of human modification. In giving effect to the dual requirements of Sections 6(a) and 6(b) of the RMA, Policy 6.4.22.2 requires a high level of protection be afforded to these areas, by avoiding further subdivision and the introduction of built structures, particularly in areas characterised by no built modification.

Other landscapes in the Auckland Region, including urban landscapes, are important for their high amenity values, or valued cultural or historical identity or for their

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

~~sense of place at the regional, district or local level. They may also be important because of their visual relationship or physical connections with Outstanding Natural Landscapes. These other landscapes are not specifically identified in this RPS. However Policy 6.4.22.2 and Method 6.4.23.4 encourage district plans and the regional coastal plan territorial authorities are encouraged to identify and manage adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on landscapes that are important to regional and local amenity values, the character and identity of their district. [53/15, 55/15, 54/15]~~

~~The management of subdivision, use and development in these other Highly Valued. In rural, coastal and island areas, amenity L landscape s management should focus es on maintaining protecting the key elements, processes features and patterns that make these areas visually attractive, or contribute to their unique character. These may include the presence of significant ridgelines, slope faces or other prominent landforms, the amount and patterning of indigenous vegetation or significant stands of attractive exotic trees, the presence of water bodies such as lakes, wetlands or estuaries, the naturalness of the margins of the water bodies and the interplay between landform, vegetation and water.~~

~~In urban landscapes the focus may be on the presence of historic buildings or precincts, the maintenance or enhancement of public open space and streetscapes, or building densities and design to ensure local character and amenity are maintained. The maintenance and enhancement of remaining natural areas and feature, such as natural streams also contributes to urban amenity values.~~

~~This ARPS does not prescribe particular techniques for particular landscape areas, as this level of detail is more appropriately contained in district plans and the regional coastal plan. However Policy 6.4.22.4 identifies key factors to be addressed in the management of both Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and Highly Valued Landscapes. However Method 6.4.23.3 identifies a number of techniques that may should be used to maintain landscape values. [53/18, 54/18/ 55/18]~~

~~Maintaining the natural qualities of Outstanding Natural Landscapes is also affected by dependent on the management of adjacent areas. Policy 6.4.22.3 identifies circumstances where there is a need to consider the adverse effects of subdivision, use and development occurring outside the Outstanding Natural Landscape on the natural landscape values within Outstanding Natural Landscape areas. Particular attention is given to retaining the continuity between significant landforms and areas of indigenous vegetation areas that cross landscape unit boundaries. Careful management of land on the boundary of major reserve areas can benefit both public and private landscape values. [7/3, 78/4, 29/3, 13/54, 49/19, 13/55, 40/13]~~

~~These areas act as transitions or buffers zones in terms of their level of development and provide a setting within which the Outstanding Natural Landscapes are viewed. Some areas such as the eastern foothills of the Waitakere Ranges are particularly significant buffers between the intensive urban development of metropolitan Auckland and the Outstanding Natural Landscapes of the Ranges themselves. Policies 6.4.22.5 and 6.4.22.6 requires that these buffer areas be recognised and appropriately managed.~~

~~Policies 6.4.22.1(xi) 7 and 6.4.22.4 & require that the role of adverse cumulative adverse effects in modifying landscape character be addressed in Outstanding Natural Landscapes. In many situations, an individual building or other structure localised change in land use may not have significant adverse effects on landscape character, but the cumulative effect of subdivision, use and development across the district and the Region may be adverse in terms of results in significant landscape change.~~

~~In the Auckland Region, the most significant adverse cumulative effect on rural, coastal and island landscapes has been the increasing expansion and density of countryside living rural residential subdivision and an accompanying increase in the size and visual presence of rural and coastal houses and related development. This means that areas that were previously sparsely populated by buildings are fewer~~

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

and the rural, ~~and~~ coastal ~~and~~ island landscapes are becoming increasingly similar in terms of the presence of rural residential buildings. This has led to a reduction in the naturalness of the Region's landscapes and a loss of district and regional landscape diversity. This not only affects the ability of the Region's community to use and enjoy its natural and physical environment, but also does not take account of the needs of future generations.

Policy 6.4.22.1(xiii) ~~9~~ sets the landscape provisions of this chapter within the strategic framework for growth management set out in [Chapter 2; Regional Direction](#). It requires that decisions made on landscape matters are consistent with the achievement of regional growth management objectives ~~and policies~~.

The maintenance of Outstanding Natural Landscapes ~~and the restoration of degraded the values of other~~ landscapes requires management of the landscape's elements and features and restoration and enhancement initiatives. Active management may include weed and pest control and the fencing of water bodies or indigenous bush areas to prevent stock access. These land management initiatives are recognised and supported by Policy 6.4.22.5 ~~10~~.

Restoration and enhancement actions are often undertaken independently by landowners as part of ordinary property management. However in recent years, larger scale restoration and enhancement involving the replanting of pasture land back into indigenous bush has been accompanied by subdivision incentives. Policy 6.4.22.6 ~~11~~ acknowledges that subdivision may sometimes facilitate landscape restoration, but it identifies the need to ensure that subdivision is linked to the achievement of [significant environmental benefits](#). The policy also recognises that there is a need to consider the visual effects of further subdivision and accompanying houses in the landscape ~~and ensure that adverse effects do not outweigh proposed benefits~~.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 gives special status to the islands and waters of the Hauraki Gulf. Section 8 of that Act contains a number of

management objectives that must be recognised as matters of national significance. Policy 6.4.22.7 ~~12~~ requires that landscape management of the coastline of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands recognises and provides for this imperative.

[Some Outstanding Natural Landscapes contain existing regionally significant infrastructure](#). The storage lakes, dams, pipelines and related infrastructure associated with the bulk water supply systems in the Waitakere and Hunua Ranges is a particular example. Policies 6.4.22.10 and 6.4.22.11 and Method 6.4.23.3 acknowledge that this infrastructure needs to be maintained and upgraded. In Outstanding Natural Landscapes this work needs to consider how it impacts on the key landscape elements, patterns and processes. The adverse visual effects may range from de minimus to significant depending on the nature and scale of the maintenance and upgrading work and the type of infrastructure. This variability in scale of adverse effects and the requirement to have additional assessment provisions where significant adverse effects are likely is recognised in Policy 6.4.22.11. The opportunity to undertake environmental enhancement is recognised in Policy 6.4.22.12. [\[87/28\]](#)

[New regionally significant infrastructure providers may want to locate in Outstanding Natural Landscapes](#). Policy 6.4.22.8 (i) directs this infrastructure away from Outstanding Natural Landscapes that are unique, rare or iconic in the region. Policy 6.4.22.8 (ii) identifies areas where significant adverse effects are to be avoided. Policy 6.4.22.9 acknowledges that the requirements of regionally significant infrastructure and the protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes may be in conflict and it provides criteria for making an overall judgement about what best achieves the purpose of the RMA.

Identifying valued landscape areas at both the regional and district level and monitoring changes in these landscapes requires on-going landscape assessment. Landscape assessment in the Auckland Region has used a number of different techniques that have limited comparison of results among areas and over time. While Method 6.4.23.5 does not prescribe

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

the use of one particular landscape assessment methodology, it does encourage the adoption of compatible methodologies by all local authorities involved in landscape management. Guidance on appropriate landscape assessment methodologies may be provided through relevant national policy statements.

Outstanding landscapes are those which are identified as being major visual elements in the Auckland Region, such as the Waitakere Ranges, or which are unique and/or extremely attractive, such as those with landscape quality values of 6 and 7 in Map Series 2. Regionally significant landscapes are representative of the special landscape qualities of the part of the Region in which they are located and are those areas with a landscape quality value of 5 in Map Series 2.

The intention of the policies is to protect the aesthetic and visual quality, character and value of the major and unique landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Policy 6.4.19.1 does this by requiring the avoidance of adverse effects on the whole landscape unit in outstanding landscape areas. This recognises that the landscape value of these units is derived from a combination of qualities and values which together give them an outstanding rating. These qualities and values usually mean that the units are also extremely sensitive to the visual effects of use and development. In Regionally Significant Landscapes, the emphasis is on the protection of the elements, features and patterns which contribute to the quality of the landscape unit (Policy 6.4.19.1 (iii) and (iv)).

In other parts of the Region, including urban areas which are not presently covered by a comprehensive regional landscape assessment, there are elements, features and patterns which contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the visual quality of these areas. Policy 2.6.1.2 requires that urban containment and consolidation within existing urban areas be undertaken in a way which maintains or enhances amenity values. Appropriate protection of urban landscape elements, features and patterns is important in achieving high urban amenity standards. Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating adverse effects on the elements, features and patterns which contribute to landscape quality in all landscapes also maintains the overall quality and diversity of character of Auckland's landscapes which is sought in Objective 6.3(4).

The individual factors which contribute to the quality and sensitivity of both outstanding and regionally significant landscape vary throughout the Region, depending on the

particular landscape. These factors include the presence of prominent ridgelines and slopes, the pattern of vegetation, particularly indigenous vegetation and the presence of bodies of water. Further information on this is contained in Appendix F Landscape Evaluation Methodology.

The outstanding and regionally significant landscapes identified in Map Series 2 are derived from the report An Assessment of the Auckland Region's Landscape (Planning Department, ARC, 1984) and were subject to public preference tests. Appendix F provides an explanation of the methodology used in this landscape assessment work.

The ARC proposes to progressively update the 1984 assessment of the rural areas of the Region and to expand the regional landscape assessment process to urban areas and other parts of the Region not presently covered. The first step is the publication of guidelines for a standard methodology for landscape assessment and evaluation. This is to encourage the adoption of compatible and integrative assessment methods by all agencies in the Region undertaking landscape assessment work. As part of the preparation and publication of the landscape assessment methodology guidelines, the ARC will provide opportunities for public input, consultation and contestability.

6.5 Environmental Results Anticipated

[Other than as identified below all other parts of 6.5 Environmental Results Anticipated remain unchanged]

It is anticipated that these policies and methods will result in the following outcomes:

(d) Changes that occur within Outstanding Natural Landscapes will sustain the values associated with those areas.

[40/21, 16/17, 15/14]

(e d) a the diverse range of valued landscapes will be maintained protected; [48/65]

[6.5 (d) – (g) are renumbered as (e) – (h)]

6.6 Monitoring

[Other than as identified below all other parts of 6.6 Monitoring remain unchanged]

The ARC in conjunction with TAs Councils will develop and maintain monitoring systems and databases to

Auckland

Regional Policy Statement

monitor cultural heritage, natural areas and their ecological processes by:

.....

- (vii) the state of ~~Outstanding and regionally significant Natural and other Valued~~ Landscapes will be surveyed and reported on in the State of the Environment report, at intervals of not less than 15 years;

**Auckland
Regional Policy Statement**

Chapter 7 - Coastal Environment [make

the following consequential amendments to Policies 7.4.1 (v) and 7.4.7.3 as follows:]

7.4.1 Policy: Coastal environment.

In determining the extent of the coastal environment of the Auckland Region, the following areas and features shall be taken into consideration:

.....

- (v) *areas of Significant Natural Heritage listed in Appendix B and ~~Outstanding and Regionally Significant Landscape Areas shown on Map series 2 and Outstanding Natural Landscapes shown in Map Series 3a~~ which are adjacent to the CMA;*

7.4.7 Policies: Areas of Special Value.

.....

- 3 *Outstanding Natural Landscapes shown in Map Series 3a ~~Outstanding and Regionally Significant Landscapes~~ in the coastal environment shall be ~~preserved and~~ protected in accordance with Policy 6.4.22.1. ~~19-1~~. [63/9]*

Auckland Regional Policy Statement

Definitions and Abbreviations

[Make the following consequential amendment to the definition of "Areas of Special Value":]

Amenity Landscapes

are landscapes that have high levels of amenity value, which are those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes. Amenity landscapes may be identified in district and regional plans.

[See Topic 5.5]

Areas of Special Value

means outstanding natural features and landscapes, areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. These areas are ~~described in~~ indicated in Appendix B; ~~which lists Significant Natural Heritage Areas and Values and are shown on and~~ Map Series 2. Map Series 3a identifies Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes, which shows the Areas of Landscape Quality.

Naturalness (Landscape)

In an Outstanding Natural Landscape, naturalness means the qualities or landscape characteristics that are produced by nature, or natural processes, including rural land cover such as pasture, rather than landscapes that dominated by built structures or that are highly domesticated. Naturalness occurs in both wild nature and cultured nature Outstanding Natural Landscapes, where a key distinction is the type of land cover. [48/36 and 48/37]

Naturalness (Ecological)

For ecological purposes, naturalness is an assessment of the degree an area (ie vegetation, ecosystem) has been free from the effects of human disturbance and intervention. It is also an assessment of the indigenous content of an area. [48/36 and 48/37]