glossary: a guide for interpretation

This section updated February 2012

ADVERSE EFFECTS

These are effects which have a harmful impact on human beings or the environment and include any effects which arise over time or in any combination with other effects. It also includes any temporary as well as permanent effects, as well as any potential effect where there is a high or low probability of it occurring.

AIR

This includes all zones and components of the atmosphere and stratosphere which contribute to the functioning of the global environment.

AMENITY VALUES

These are those natural and physical characteristics of an area that contribute to people's enjoyment of it. People can enjoy an area because it is beautiful, because it is important as a place of recreation and leisure, and because they associate it with something that is important to them personally. What makes an area differ in its beauty, are its particular natural and physical characteristics, or amenity values. For example, people enjoy the beauty of the West Coast for its wild seas, steep cliffs, bush and beautiful beaches, and because of the feeling of wilderness. It differs from the gentler Manukau Coast. The sea, the cliffs, the sense of wilderness comprise the amenity values of that West Coast environment. The amenity values of that West Coast environment. The amenity values of different landscapes and different parts of the City are identified in Parts 3.6 and 3 of the Policy Section.

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

These are all natural area which are waterways or waterbodies are aquatic systems. This includes streams, lakes, wetlands and coastal waters.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

means any place that was associated with human activity which occurred before 1900 and is or may be able through investigation by archaeological methods to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand.

BIODIVERSITY

This is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems, and interactions between biological communities and their physical surroundings.

BIOMASS

The total quantity or weight of organisms (plant, animal and microbial) in a given area.

BIOTA

These are the animal, plant and microbial life of an area.

CAPACITY OF ROADS

This relates to the ability of a road to carry maximum amount of traffic which can safely travel along a road without disrupting traffic flow, causing traffic congestion problems, and/or conflict with turning movements of vehicles.

CATCHMENT

This is an area within which a stream network, in its entirety, lies. All surface water within a catchment drains into that stream's network from the catchment.

CHARACTERISTIC LEVEL OF QUIET

This is the level of quiet typical to that area.

CORE AREAS OF TOWN CENTRES

This refers to the main shopping street of town centres. These areas are characterised by pedestrian orientated development where buildings generally provide a continuous frontage dominated by glass display space, and weather protection over the adjacent footpath. Buildings are generally built up to the road frontage with car parking at the rear.

ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

This is an area of New Zealand which is considered to be an ecologically cohesive unit with respect to geology, topography, climate, biology, and human modification, and forms a distinct and recognisable entity. New Zealand is made up of 268 ecological districts. Waitakere City contains most of the

Waitakere Ecological District and part of the Tamaki Ecological District.

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Ecological integrity means the completeness, comprehensiveness and representative nature of ecosystems and their function as complete and constant parts of wider ecological processes.

ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystems is a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

ECOSYSTEM STABILITY

This relates to the ability of an ecosystems to remain viable and recover from disturbances.

EDGE EFFECT

This occurs where wind, light and environmentally damaging plants and animal pests cause detrimental changes to the edge of vegetation patches, or are able to invade native vegetation patches and cause detrimental changes.

EMISSIONS

These are discharges of air, light, heat, vapour and gases into the environment.

ENHANCEMENT

This is the improvement of the state of something already existing. In relation to amenity, for example, it means to improve the pleasantness or character of a location or site, and in relation to vegetation, to improve the quality of the vegetation, to improve the quality of the vegetation so it is of greater value to people, or contributes to an increase in natural landscape, or ecosystem value.

EROSION

This is the process of the wearing away of the land surface by natural agents and the loss of rock and soils from the area as a result.

GREEN NETWORK

This is the combination of significant and outstanding natural and physical resources within the City which are grouped together to enable a comprehensive management approach. Areas included in the Green Network are significant and outstanding vegetation, significant and outstanding fauna habitat, natural coastal areas, riparian margins, outstanding natural features and ecological linkages and restoration areas.

GREENFIELDS

This is land which is intended for intensive urban development, particularly residential landuse.

HAPU

Sub-tribe, usually a number of whanau (families) with a common ancestors.

HEALTH EFFECTS

This is harm to or loss of physical and mental wellbeing.

HERITAGE FEATURE(S)

The Heritage features of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area are:

(a) its terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of prominent indigenous character that -

  (i) include large continuous areas of primary and regenerating lowland and coastal rainforest, wet land, and dune systems with intact ecological sequences:

  (ii) have intrinsic value:

  (iii) provide a diversity of habitats for indigenous flora and fauna:

  (iv) collect, store, and produce high quality water:

  (v) provide opportunities for ecological restoration:

  (vi) are of cultural, scientific, or educational interest:

  (vii) have landscape qualities of regional and national significance:

  (viii) have natural scenic beauty:

(b) the different classes of natural landforms and landscapes within the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area that contrast and connect with each other, and which collectively give the area its distinctive character:

(c) the coastal areas, which -

(i) have a natural and dynamic character and

(ii) contribute to the area's vistas and

(iii) differ significantly from each other:

(d) the naturally functioning streams that rise in the eastern foothills and contribute positively to downstream urban character, stormwater management, and flood protection:

(e) the quietness and darkness of the Waitakere Ranges and the coastal parts of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area:

(f) the dramatic landform of the Ranges and foothills, which is the visual backdrop to metropolitan Auckland, forming its western skyline:

(g) the opportunities that the area provides for wilderness experiences, recreation, and relaxation in close proximity to metropolitan Auckland:

(h) the eastern foothills, which

(i) act as buffer between metropolitan Auckland and the forested ranges and coasts and

(i) provide a transition from metropolitan Auckland to the forested ranges and coast:

(i) the subservience of the built environment to the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area's natural and rural landscape, which is reflected in

(i) the individual identity and character of the coastal villages and their distinctive scale, containment, intensity, and amenity and

(ii) the distinctive harmony, pleasantness, and coherence of the low density residential and urban areas that are located in regenerating (and increasingly dominant) forest settings and

(iii) the rural character of the foothills to the east and north and their intricate pattern of farmland, orchards, vineyards, uncultivated areas, indigenous vegetation, and dispersed low density settlement with few urban scale activities:

(j) the historical, traditional, and cultural relationships of people, communities, and tangata whenua with the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area and their exercise of kaitiakitanga and stewardship:

(k) the evidence of past human activities in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area, including those in relation to timber extraction, gum digging, flax milling, mineral extraction, quarrying, extensive framing, and water impoundment and supply:

(l) its distinctive local communities:

(m) the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park and its importance as an accessible public place with significant natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources:

(n) the public water catchment and supply system, the operation, maintenance, and development of which serves the people of Auckland:

HERITAGE ITEMS

These are structures, sites and objects identified as being of particular value to the City's residents and tangata whenua, which they would like to see passed on intact to future generations. These heritage items are listed in the Heritage Lists and are protected by Rules in the District Plan.

HERITAGE VEGETATION

This is vegetation identified as being of particular heritage significance to areas within the City and which are protected by Rules within the District Plan.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS

These are the different areas within the City which have noticeably different characteristics, due to their past, present and possible future development.
The Human Environments recognise the different landscapes and local areas in the City, as a basis for the management of effects, particularly on landscape and amenity values, health and safety. They include the following areas: Bush Living Environment, Coastal Villages Environment, Countryside Environment, Community Environment, Living Environment, Waitakere Ranges Environment, Working Environment, Foothills Environment, Rural Villages Environment.

INFRASTRUCTURE

This comprises all the systems by which water, power, gas and communications are provided to people and businesses in the city, and by which the city's stormwater and wastewater is treated and disposed. It also includes railways, airports, lighthouses, meteorological activities, navigation aids and beacons.

INWARD MIGRATION OF SAND-DUNE ACCRETIONS

The movement of sand dunes inward over land that occurs as the result of natural processes such as the action of the wind.

INWARD MIGRATION OF SEA

The inundation or flooding of land by sea water, that occurs as a natural process through tectonic events or as sea levels rise.

IWI

Maori tribe, usually a number of hapu with a common ancestor.

KAITIAKI

The tangata whenua guardian who exercises the ancestral responsibilities of kaitiakitanga.

KAITIAKITANGA

The exercise of custodianship by iwi who hold manawhenua, in order to protect the physical health of the resource and it mauri of life-force.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Any landscape is defined by the natural and physical features that make it unique and different. It is also defined by a particular but more intangible 'feeling'. This is landscape character. For example, the landscape character of the Waitakere Ranges is one of wilderness and the dominance of nature.

LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Any landscape is defined in part by the natural and physical features that make it unique and different. For example, the City's residential landscape is dominated by one to two storey houses and wide quiet streets. In contrast, the Manukau Coast is dominated by estuaries, coastal vegetation, and the sea and cliffs at the Green Bay end. All these tangible features are landscape elements.

MANA

Prestige, power, authority.

MANAWHENUA

This is the customary authority exercised by iwi or hapu in an identified area

MAURI

Mauri can be described as the life force present in all things and all people. Mauri generates, regenerates and upholds creation, binding physical and spiritual elements of all things together. Recognition of the spiritual aspects of reality is central to a definition of sustainable management.

Note: see also the Tangata Whenua Statements, Part 4 of the Policy Section for further explanations.

MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING

This is comprehensively designed, two-to three-storey multi-housing developments concentrated around town centres, railway stations and transport routes.

MIGRATING WILDLIFE

These are wildlife species that move seasonally, usually in search of habitat.

MITIGATION MEASURES

This is the procedure or methodology (which may include safeguards, contingency plans and compensation both before and after an effect) used to lessen the severity or eliminate the incidence of an effect.

NATURAL CHARACTER (of the coast, rivers, lakes and wetlands and their margins)

Natural character of the coastal environment, is those qualities and values of the coastal environment which derive from the presence of natural features and natural processes. These qualities include the presence of indigenous vegetation and habitats, landforms, landscapes, the historic, aesthetic, cultural and spiritual value of natural features, the functioning of natural processes and the maintenance of water quality. Although not excluding structures and human activities, areas of natural character derive their predominant influence, character or identity from the presence of natural values and processes. The coastal environment is that area in which the coast is a significant element or part. Elements which may characterise the coast include the presence of coastal vegetation habitats, landforms and cultural heritage places or areas which have characteristics which are coastal and which may in themselves or together with other features contribute to the visual and amenity values of the coast. The operation of coastal processes, the presence of coastal hazards and the direct discharge of surface runoff in the coastal marine area are indicators of the extent of the coastal environment of Waitakere City. In some areas the

coastal environment is clearly identifiable in that it extends inland to the first significant coastal ridgeline, while in other parts of the City, the inland boundary may not be so distinctive.

The natural character of the margins of rivers, lakes and wetlands is those qualities and features created by the movement of any waterway, and the presence of vegetation that creates aquatic or riparian habitat, which serves as a buffer for the absorption of contaminants along the waterways themselves.

NATURAL HAZARD EVENT

This is any natural occurrence (including earthquake, tsunami, erosion, volcanic and geothermal activity, landslip, subsidence, sedimentation, wind, drought, fire or flooding) which adversely affects human life, property, or the environment.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE

A natural landscape is one that is dominated by natural features such as bush, streams and the coast, to a degree that the overwhelming feeling is one of naturalness. Although such a landscape may contain buildings and structures these are either so few in number that they do not impinge on this natural feeling, or, they are designed and built in a way that they merge with the surrounding landscape and its natural values.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Natural landscape character is the character of an area which is derived from the dominance of natural landscape elements.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Natural landscape elements are the natural elements such as ridges, headlands, scarps and cliffs, wetlands, dunelands, native vegetation and streams which have been identified as contributing significantly to the Waitakere City landscape. Some elements are sensitive or vulnerable to change or modification, and these are referred to as sensitive ridges and headlands.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources include plants and animals and their habitat and landforms, geological features, and systems of interacting living organisms, and their environment.

NATURALLY OCCURRING PROCESSES

These are processes that occur without human intervention.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER

Neighbourhood is that small local area, usually the small number of streets around a dwelling or workplace, that a person identifies with and knows most thoroughly of all parts of the City. Usually people have strong sense of belonging and place associated with a neighbourhood. It is the most localised, personal and intense expression of the relationship of people with their environment.

Such neighbourhoods reflect the general amenity values of the surrounding landscape or local area but have distinctive versions of those general features that allow inhabitants to see them as unique and special. This is the neighbourhood character that defines a neighbourhood as unique. Often the particular streetscape contributes strongly to the local neighbourhood, although it is the personal perceptions of residents that ultimately define the nature of that neighbourhood. Part 3.6 of the Policy Section identifies landscape and local area and character.

NON-POINT DISCHARGE

This is the run-off or leachate from land, onto or into land, air, a water body or the sea.

OUTSTANDING COASTAL AREAS

These are areas where the natural landscapes and landforms are largely intact, some, or all, of the native coastal vegetation remains and the coastal water quality is generally of better quality than the coastal waters elsewhere around the city. This includes:

- the West coast and Manukau coastlines around the Waitakere Ranges extending along to Green Bay;
- around the Waitemata Harbour coastline at Whenuapai and Hobsonville (from Brighams Creek to Scott Road);
- low coastal cliffs around Massey.

Laingholm and Green Bay coastal village settlements are not included in the Rules as the natural character of these areas has been more compromised.

OUTSTANDING FAUNA HABITAT

These are areas that were identified by the NZ Wildlife Service wildlife habitat inventory (Special Sites of Wildlife Interest) as of outstanding or high significance as fauna habitat, and were identified by the Waitakere and Tamaki Protected Natural Area Surveys as of special importance to local, regional or national biodiversity.

OUTSTANDING LANDFORMS

These are those landforms such as ridge/valley systems, bluffs, dune systems, or outcrops of resistant rock that form distinct peaks that are the best representative examples of particular landform system in that ecological district.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES

These are areas or sites that contain special landform, soil or geological features or processes. These features were selected from sites identified as "priority landform sites" in the Waitakere Protected Natural Area Survey, the Geopreservation Inventory and the New Zealand Soil Society's Soil Sites of International, National and Regional Importance. They include features such as dune lands, bluffs, knolls, wetlands, sequences of special rock strata and sequences of special rock strata and representative soils.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPES

These are the areas of high visual and amenity appeal and have been identified in the Policy Section of the Plan as outstanding. They are the coastal landscape between Bethells/Te Henga and Whatipu; the coastal estuarine areas between Whatipu and Green Bay; and the Waitakere Ranges, including the fingers of bush in the upper areas of the foothills.

OUTSTANDING VEGETATION

These are areas of vegetation identified as priority vegetation sites in the Waitakere and Tamaki Protected Natural Area surveys and are the best representative examples of each vegetation community in that ecological district.

POINT DISCHARGE

Discharge from a specific and identifiable outlet, onto or into land, air, a water body or the sea.

PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

A precautionary approach means that when decisions are made about the use, development or protection or natural and physical resources, the degree of uncertainty about the nature, extent, intensity, and duration of the effects which may stem from any such decision is taken into account. Where there is reason to believe that significant adverse effects may arise from a proposed activity, the effects of the activity cannot be predicted, or there is a high level of uncertainty about the nature or magnitude of the effects, then a precautionary approach should be taken.

PRIVACY

This is the quality usually associated with a site or place where people feel free from overlooking or surveillance, or from being overheard. This sense of privacy is highly valued. The location of buildings too close to areas or residential sites where people play or relax, can detract from that sense of privacy.

PROTECTED NATURAL AREA (PNA) SURVEY

This is a programme which aims to establish a network of reserves and other protected natural areas which is representative of the full range of New Zealand's natural diversity. In this survey ecological districts were surveyed and areas identified which best represent the diversity of the natural features within the ecological district.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Public access refers to the provision of routes which the public can walk and/or ride bicycles or horses to get to streams, lakes, the coast, reserves or parks. This includes access by way of reserves (road, esplanade, recreation and scenic) and covenants (esplanade strips, access strips and walkways).

RARE

Rare species are those with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable, but are at risk.

REASONABLE SUNLIGHT & DAYLIGHT ACCESS

Reasonable daylight access means that habitable rooms of residential

buildings receive enough daylight at all times of the year sufficient to contribute to the general health and wellbeing or the occupants.

Reasonable sunlight access means that dwellings receive adequate sun at midwinter, sufficient to contribute to the general health and wellbeing of the occupants.

REPRESENTATIVE SOILS

These are soils which have been chosen as the best example of a particular soil type found in New Zealand or a unique rare soil type. They have been identified to help ensure that each soil type in New Zealand has at least one site where it is protected.

REPRESENTATIVENESS

This is the extent to which an area represents or exemplifies the components of the natural diversity of Waitakere City's original (pre-human) natural landscape. As Waitakere City is divided into the Waitakere and Tamaki ecological districts, then the representativeness of natural areas needs to be interpreted within the context of which district it falls within.

RESILIENCE, BIODIVERSITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE GREEN NETWORK

Resilience is the ability to remain viable and be able to recover from disturbances.

The sort of aspects to be considered when looking at resilience of the Green Network will differ to some extent depending on the element of the Green Network being considered. Examples are as follows;

Resilience of native vegetation and fauna habitat is greatest if, when clearing an area, the shape of the clearing promotes the lowest edge to volume ratio of the vegetation area to prevent edge effect and reduce the spread of environmentally damaging plants (i.e. clear from two existing edges instead of in the middle of vegetation as shown in figure x). As another example: when subdivision occurs it should be done in a way that doesn't fragment existing vegetation or isolate patches of vegetation from other patches.

Resilience of outstanding natural features is adversely affected if activities such as earthworks exacerbate natural processes such as erosion and subsidence. Another example would be to prevent barriers that would effect natural processes such as placing buildings in the path of a migrating dune system.

Resilience of linkages and restoration areas is unlike the other components of the Green Network in that they have no or low resilience. Therefore activities should contribute to promoting the regeneration and connectedness to other area of vegetation so that they will become resilient.

Resilience of coastal areas could be perpetuated by ensuring that coastal vegetation and dunes survive so that natural processes such as replenishment of sand to beaches are able to occur.

Resilience of riparian areas is greatest if the largest amount of permeable surface and vegetation can be maintained within a catchment.

Biodiversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems, and interactions between biological communities and their physical surroundings.

In the context of the Green Network, biodiversity can be maintained and enhanced by preventing the loss of species' richness, community types and the different physical sites where they occur. For example, loss of manuka on the leached soils in Waikumete Cemetery which provide habitat for fauna not found elsewhere in the City.

Integrity of the Green Network means conserving and enhancing the natural features that are of the healthiest quality and most representative of Waitakere City. In the Green Network these natural features equate to the areas identified as being outstanding (i.e. outstanding vegetation, outstanding fauna habitat and outstanding landforms).

Integrity can be maintained and enhanced in other areas that are not outstanding by preventing the interruption of natural processes (for example, the removal of mature trees that provide seeds for regeneration) and by following the principles outlined below when revegetating areas.

Principles of Ecological Revegetation

1. Use only 'eco-sourced' plant material i.e. seeds and cuttings from native plants that naturally occur in the closest location to the revegetation site.
2. Plant species in the sites where they would occur naturally.
3. Plant to facilitate natural regeneration. This includes mimicking natural regeneration by planting pioneer or early successional species first, followed by species that establish later in the regeneration process.

4. Plant to avoid or minimise weed problems and the effects of drought and wind. This includes clumping plants closely to create a sheltered micro-climate and to crowd out weed species, and planting fast-growing species that outcompete weed species when establishing the initial vegetation cover.

RESTORATION

This means facilitating the return of an area to it's original (pre-human) state or to a state that will bring about the natural processes necessary for the return to an original state. This may involve active management techniques such as revegetation, pest and weed control and re-introduction of indigenous species.

RURAL LANDSCAPE

A rural landscape reflects in the patterns of pasture, cultivated lands, trees and buildings, the rural activities that take place within it. For example, in the northern part of the city, the landscape is rural with it combination of pasture, gardens, glasshouses and buildings associated with horticulture and the distinctive shelter belts along the edges of paddocks. The latter is a particularly important part of the rural landscape, with the mix of older shelter belts (usually macrocarpas or pines) associated with pastoral farming, and the lighter deciduous shelter belts associated with horticulture. With such a rural landscape, the landscape elements derive directly from the rural activities that take place within it, while the landscape character also derives from these productive activities.

SEDIMENT QUALITY

This is the health or state of the sediments in natural waterways and waterbodies, normally related directly to chemical and biological parameters.

SENSITIVE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

These are significant ridges, headlands, scarps and cliffs which have been identified as being at particular risk of losing their natural landscape value by inappropriate development. In order to protect these sensitive landscape elements Rules have been developed in the Plan.

SIGNIFICANT FAUNA HABITAT

These are areas identified by the NZ Wildlife Service wildlife habitat inventory (Special Sites of Wildlife Interest) as of moderate and moderate-high significance as fauna habitat.

SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION

Vegetation within Waitakere City that satisfies at least one of the criteria developed by the Council for identifying significant vegetation has been identified as such. This does include some areas of vegetation with a component of exotic species, such as wattle of pine, in the canopy but which nevertheless have satisfied at least one of the criteria. These criteria are set out in Appendix D: Methodology of the Plan.

SLIPPING

This is the downward movement of soil, subsoil or rock usually due to slope failure.

SOLID WASTE

This is any solid or semi-solid material (e.g. sludge's) which is discharged, unwanted or discarded by the current generator or owner as having little or no economic value, and which may include materials that can be reused, recycled or recovered.

SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS

This is a waste disposal site used for the controlled deposit of solid wastes onto or into the land.

SOLID WASTE STRATEGY

This is a document produced by Waitakere City Council outlining the strategy to deal with solid waste.

SUBSIDENCE

This is the sinking of the land surface below its current ground level.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

This is defined by the Resource Management Act as managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their health safety while: a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and c) avoiding, or remedying, or mitigating any adverse

effects of activities on the environment (Resource Management Act 1991)

SUSTAINABILITY

This is the use of natural and physical resources in such a way that allows for the ongoing use of those resources in perpetuity.

STREETSCAPE

A streetscape is that combination of physical elements or features that make up the road and the combination of surrounding building, gardens and private spaces that overlook and are visually linked to a road or street when viewed from the road itself. Because roads and streets can be such a dominant part of a landscape, particularly an urban landscape, they are important in defining landscape qualities and neighbourhood character. For example, in residential areas the way houses face the street, often with their front doors and sitting rooms at the front of the house, sets up strong links between the private spaces and the road.

TAONGA

This is something highly prized or treasured, tangible or intangible, that contributes to Maori wellbeing. The term equates roughly to the concept of a resource, but incorporates a range of social, economic and cultural associations. Included, for example, are te reo (the Maori language), waahi tapu (sacred sites), waterways, fishing grounds, mountains and place names.

TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

These are all natural areas on land such as bush, dunelands and grasslands.

TE TAIAO

This is the natural world or environment.

THREATENED

This is a term defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to include rare, vulnerable, and endangered species.

TIKANGA

This relates to customary values and practices.

URBAN CONSOLIDATION / CONTAINMENT STRATEGY

This refers to a strategy that has been adopted in the District Plan to contain, where possible population containment strategy growth within the existing urban area. This strategy includes the following:

- placing limits on settlement outside the urban area and on population growth according to the capacity of natural and physical resources, landscapes and amenity values to absorb impacts;
- managing the intensification of settlement in limited areas on the periphery of the urban area;
- encouraging intensification of residential activities in designated parts of the City via medium density housing;
- managing the location of retail activities to counter pressure for a "spread" city;
- managing infill housing to protect amenity values in the urban area, while accommodating increased densities where possible.

VIEW(S)

This is an extent of land or sea, considered to have visual amenity, that is covered by the field of vision from a particular point.

VISUAL AMENITY

An area can be valued because of emotional associations that people have with it, because of the sense of wilderness or, conversely the sense of coherence and quiet. It can also be valued purely because of its beauty and attractiveness at a visual level. Visual amenity is those particular elements of a landscape or area that contribute to the visual appreciation of an area.

VISUAL APPEARANCE

An area or object can be notable for a range of reasons - for emotional associations for example. The visual appearance, that is, how it looks purely in terms of shape, texture or colour, is also a factor in how people assess or relate to an area or object.

VISUAL CHARACTER

Landscapes are defined in part by the landscape elements (physical and natural features) and landscape character (intangible 'feel' of a landscape). The latter is of course influenced by the combination of landscape elements. Visual character is the particular qualities of a landscape

that derive from the visual mix (shape, texture and colour) of objects that make up the landscape. For example, the Waitakere Ranges have a visual character that is dependent on the particular colours and textures of native bush, and the shape of the ridgelines as they meet the sky. Residential areas have a visual quality that derives from the mix of houses and trees. There is variety, but also a coherence, from the repetition of colour and shape. This visual character is an important part of the landscape.

WATER QUALITY

This is the health or state of the water column in natural waterways or waterbodies. While it may relate directly to chemical and biological parameters in the water, the term is sometimes used more generally to refer to the health or state of aquatic biological communities.

WATERWAY

This refers to any naturally occurring body of water, and in most cases refers to streams or rivers, but can include lakes, wetlands and coastal waters.

WETLAND

This includes permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.