

10a.25 Land unit - Conservation

10a.25.1 Introduction

This land unit covers a number of smaller islands, both publicly and privately owned, and land owned by the Department of Conservation (DOC) on Great Barrier, Waiheke and Rakino; [and Whakanewha Regional Park owned by Auckland Regional Council on Waiheke](#). Some of the larger islands and island groups include Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motuihe, Browns Island, Kaikoura, Little Barrier, the Noises, the Mokohinau Islands and the Three Sisters group.

The characteristics of the land unit are:

- High scenic and ecological conservation values.
- The land is mostly managed by DOC under the Conservation Act 1987 and the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy.
- Small islands, regenerating or natural forest areas, with small parts of the land unit used for farming activities.

Conservation management is a key function of the land unit, and it also has an education and recreational role on a regional and national level. Because a large portion of the land is DOC owned, and because of the special value of the land in a regional and national sense, it has been identified as needing specific rules in the Plan to enable appropriate conservation, education and recreation activities to occur.

The council acknowledges that section 4(3) of the RMA exempts the crown from complying with a rules in the Plan in certain instances by stating that:

'Section 9(1) does not apply to any work or activity of the Crown within the boundaries of any area of land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes) that -

- a. Is consistent with a conservation management strategy, conservation management plan, or management plan established under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 to that Act; and
- b. Does not have a significant adverse effect beyond the boundary of the area of land.'

10a.25.2 Resource management issues

The significant resource management issues which need to be addressed in the Plan are:

1. How to conserve, protect and enhance the natural environment of islands with high conservation values.
2. How to manage potential tourism and recreation impacts on this land unit.
3. How to have special regard to the environmental values of these islands, and particularly those related to flora and fauna and to manage land use activities and development accordingly.
4. How to provide for limited facilities and infrastructure in order to minimise or avoid any detrimental impacts arising from education, visitor and recreational activities.

10a.25.3 Objective

To ensure that the land unit is appropriately managed to enable conservation, preservation and enhancement of the natural environment along with appropriate educational, visitor and recreational activities

Policies

1. By enabling conservation activities and the establishment of walking tracks by DOC to be undertaken as permitted activities.
2. By limiting adverse visual effects of buildings by controlling the scale, form, colour and location of new buildings to ensure that the natural landscape remains the dominant element.
3. By providing for passive recreation activities to establish and operate in this land unit.
4. By enabling appropriate recreation, conservation and education activities within Whakaneuwha Regional Park.
5. By ensuring that any potential impacts arising from educational, visitor and recreational activities around the islands do not detrimentally impact upon or affect the natural and environmental values of the islands.
- ~~6.~~ By protecting flora and fauna indigenous to the islands through strict controls on vegetation removal. Deleted: 4
- ~~7.~~ By recognising the need to protect and enhance, where appropriate, the conservation values of privately owned islands in the land unit and limiting the range of activities that can occur on these. Deleted: 5

10a.25.4 Resource management strategy

The resource management strategy for the land unit is to focus on the value of conservation and protection of valuable publicly owned land, including Whakaneuwha Regional Park, and some privately owned islands, to enable conservation and recreation activities. DOC activities need to be able to be undertaken with minimal council involvement, except where these may have significant adverse effects on the environment.

10a.25.5 Rules - activity table

Activity	Status
The construction and relocation of buildings, excluding DOC tramping huts, <u>DOC accessory buildings and DOC camping facilities</u> , but including buildings used for any of the other activities listed in this table ¹	RD
Alterations and additions to the exterior of existing buildings, excluding DOC tramping huts, but including buildings used for any of the other activities listed in this table. However this does not apply to minor alterations and additions as defined in part 14 - Definitions ¹	RD
<u>Accessory buildings</u>	<u>P</u>
<u>Activities that are necessary to achieve the Department of Conservation's functions under the Conservation Act 1987 and are consistent with the conservation management strategy, conservation management plan or management plan established under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act</u>	<u>P</u>
<u>Activities approved as an authorised concession under Part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987 (excluding any built structure).</u>	<u>P</u>
<u>Activities that are consistent with any management plan for</u>	<u>P</u>

Part 10a – Land units: objectives, policies and activity tables

<u>Whakanewha Regional Park established under the Reserves Act 1977.</u>	
Camping facilities	P
<u>Carparking areas</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Ecosourced planting</u>	<u>P</u>
Educational facilities on Motutapu for up to a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 persons for the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp • 25 persons for state schools 	P
Educational facilities not provided for as a permitted activity	D
Function facilities	D
Home occupations	P
Homestay	P
<u>Information centre</u>	<u>P</u>
Multiple dwellings where they are required to support conservation or education activities on a particular site or island	D
<u>Observation areas, viewing platforms and related structures</u>	<u>P</u>
Offices associated with conservation activities	P
Pastoral farming	P
Residential accessory buildings	P
Retail premises	D
<u>Park furniture (including seats, rubbish bins, lighting, signs, BBQs and picnic facilities)</u>	<u>P</u>
Visitor accommodation	D
<u>Walking tracks</u>	<u>P</u>

Deleted: Department of Conservation walking tracks including associated bridges and boardwalks

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Deleted: DOC tramping... [1]

Legend

- P = Permitted
- RD = Restricted discretionary
- D = Discretionary

Notes:

1. In this land unit, the activities of constructing or relocating buildings, or undertaking exterior alterations and additions to existing buildings, are to be treated as separate from the activity of using buildings for any of the permitted activities listed in the table. Therefore, even when an activity is permitted in this table, a resource consent may still be required for any construction or relocation of, or any exterior alteration or addition to, the building used for the activity. The relationship between buildings and other activities listed in activity tables is explained further in clause 4.3.
2. The activities of earthworks and vegetation clearance are treated as development controls and are therefore not listed in this table.

10a.25.6 Rules - development controls

The development controls listed below apply to all activities whether or not those activities are otherwise permitted, restricted discretionary, discretionary or non-complying. Infringements to these development controls will be considered as development control modifications as set out in clause 10c.3.

As well as the specific controls set out below, there are additional controls set out in **part 10c - Development controls for land units and settlement areas** which also apply to this land unit.

10a.25.6.1 Earthworks and vegetation clearance associated with activities on land owned or managed by DOC and activities in Whakanewha Regional Park

Deleted: track and hut construction

The following permitted activities are not required to comply with the standards in **part 10c - Development controls for land units and settlement areas**, relating to earthworks and indigenous vegetation clearance:

1. Any earthworks or removal of indigenous vegetation associated with activities that are necessary to achieve the Department of Conservation's functions under the Conservation Act 1987, and undertaken by DOC or DOC approved contractors.
2. Any earthworks or removal of indigenous vegetation associated with activities that are consistent with any management plan for Whakanewha Regional Park established under the Reserves Act 1977 undertaken by ARC or ARC approved contractors.

Deleted: construction of walking tracks

Deleted: 2. Any earthworks or removal of indigenous vegetation required for DOC hut construction and undertaken by DOC or DOC approved contractors.

All earthworks described above must be undertaken using erosion and sediment control measures to ensure that, in so far as practicable, soil erosion is minimised and sediment does not enter into wetlands or water bodies. For information on how to achieve this refer to **appendix 16 - Erosion and sediment control guidelines for earthworks**.

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10a.25.7 Assessment matters

For applications for resource consent refer to **part 11 - Assessment matters** for:

- Matters of discretion and notification requirements applying to the construction and relocation of buildings and to exterior alterations and additions to existing buildings.
- Assessment criteria for discretionary activities.

10a.25.8 Relationship with rules in other parts of the Plan

Part 14 - Definitions must be referred to as it is likely to contain definitions of terms used in this part of the Plan.

The following parts of the Plan should also be referred to as they may contain rules which apply to a particular site or proposal:

Part 4 - General rules

Part 5 - Network utility services

Part 6 - Financial contributions

Part 7 - Heritage

Part 8 - Natural hazards

Part 9 - Hazardous facilities and contaminated land

Part 10c - Development controls for land units and settlement areas

Part 12 - Subdivision

Part 13 - Connectivity and linkages

DOC tramping huts	P
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