

6.1 Introduction

[In 2007, Proposed Change 8: Volcanic Features and Landscape was separated into two components, being Volcanic Features and Landscape.

Proposed Change 8: Volcanic Features is now operative and the Environment Court Consent Order version (dated 19 October 2010) is incorporated into this chapter.

A decision was issued on Proposed Change 8: Landscape in October 2010 and it is now subject to Environment Court appeal. The text changes relating to the decisions version of Proposed Change 8: Landscape are included in this chapter for information purposes. Additions or deletions arising from decisions on the Proposed Change 8: Landscape are shown in underline or ~~strikethrough~~.

Reference should also be made to Proposed Change 8: Landscape Map Series 3A and Appendix F which can be viewed at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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 ~~which~~ that changes spatially and over time as natural systems evolve and humans impact on the environment.

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.

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 2a. 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.

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 and sometimes human 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).

~~Outstanding Natural Landscapes in the Region, and other landscapes of amenity value, are part of the Region's heritage resources, but and 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 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.

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.

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));
- 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));
- the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment (RM Act section 7(f));
- 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)).

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. 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.

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.

Roles and Responsibilities

All Heritage

All regional councils and TAs, any Minister of the Crown and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) are Heritage Protection Authorities under section 187 of the RM Act. Therefore, they are enabled by this provision and required by Part II of the Act to address heritage resources when they are promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The ARC has functions to achieve integrated management of all heritage resources in the Region and also, through section 30 of the RM Act, to address heritage resources which are of Regional significance. TAs are required to recognise and provide for heritage resources through their responsibilities to control the actual and potential effects of the use, development and protection of land under section 31 of the RM Act.

DoC is primarily responsible for the conservation of heritage resources located on the DoC estate under the Conservation Act 1987. However, the department also has a conservation advocacy role which relates to all

land regardless of ownership. Through the RM Act DoC also has roles and responsibilities for heritage resources located within the CMA. The DoC Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) provides a strategy for the integrated management of all areas administered by DoC in the Auckland Conservancy.

In addition to the statutory agencies, there are independent organisations, such as the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, which provide a mechanism by which private landowners can protect heritage resources on their land in perpetuity.

Cultural Heritage

The NZHPT is the national body which is charged with promoting the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. They have specific responsibilities regarding archaeological sites and produce and maintain a national register of historic places and areas, waahi tapu and waahi tapu areas.

Natural Heritage

Provisions of the Forests Act 1949, as amended in 1993, prohibit the export and milling of indigenous timbers unless a sawmill is registered, and the timber is taken from an area subject to a sustainable forest management plan or permit, or under one of the few exceptions to the Act. The Act does not legislate against the clearance of indigenous forest for conversion to an alternate land use or the use of timber for firewood. These controls rest with the TAs and are provided for in their district plans. The Forests Act is administered by the Ministry of Forestry. The NZ Forest Accord is an agreement between various members of the timber industry and environmental groups. In the accord, the timber industry agrees to exclude significant areas of indigenous vegetation from clearance and disturbance when establishing plantation forests.

The Forest Heritage Fund and Nga Whenua Rahui provide financial incentives to assist landowners who voluntarily protect their indigenous forests. These funds can assist with land purchase, fencing, survey and legal costs and facilitate in the arrangement of covenants, leases, accords and management agreements.

6.2 Issue

6.2.1 All Heritage

The heritage of the Auckland Region has been depleted and continues to be under threat.

Auckland imposes special pressures on its heritage resources because it is the largest urban area in New Zealand and continues to experience significant population growth in many parts of the region. A significant amount of Auckland's heritage has already been destroyed and a great deal of that which remains is under threat, from the individual and cumulative effects of inappropriate development. In particular, much of the natural and cultural heritage of the coastal environment has been modified or destroyed. While some of the Region's heritage resources receive a degree of protection through public ownership, many resources are held in private ownership.

More specific issues associated with particular natural and cultural heritage resources are as follows:

6.2.2 Matters of Significance to Tangata Whenua

Tangata Whenua have special concerns over the widespread loss of ancestral taonga, e.g., waahi tapu and other areas of significance. They also have concerns regarding public access to certain sites where it may not be appropriate because of the presence of resources of cultural or spiritual significance. They also seek greater involvement in the resource management of heritage resources through their obligations of kaitiakitanga. These matters are dealt with in detail in Chapter 3 - Matters of Significance to Iwi.

6.2.3 Natural Heritage

The Auckland Region's natural environment has been extensively modified with less than 30% of the Region's indigenous terrestrial habitats remaining. While detailed figures on the loss of coastal and marine communities are not available, modification to the coastal environment is thought to have been extensive. The consequences of that modification now appear in the extensive loss of particular biological features and habitats, and the reduction in ecological viability.

Examples include:

- loss of freshwater and saline wetlands, and forests;
- local extinctions and increasing rarity of many plant

and animal species (56 animal and 105 plant species are threatened in the Region);

- the extensive fragmentation and isolation of the remnants of natural environment which are left;
- extensive modification of the Region's coastal and freshwater environments including the loss of indigenous riparian and coastal margin vegetation;
- the deterioration of habitat quality in the Region due to introduced plant and animal species (see Chapter 14 - Pests).

Preliminary analysis of the extent of indigenous vegetation cover in the Region indicates that, for particular habitats and in particular parts of the Region, levels of vegetation remaining could be considered to be below threshold levels. Of the total land area of the Region, only 12% remains as indigenous forest, 18% as indigenous scrub and 0.4% as freshwater wetlands. Figure 6.1 on the next page shows the extent of indigenous vegetation cover left within ecological districts in the Region. Table 6.1 provides more detailed information for each district. Through the consultation process Iwi have indicated their concern regarding the widespread loss of wetlands, with consequential losses of habitat and spawning grounds.

The information represented in Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1 is derived from the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory (NZLRI) vegetation cover classes, with additional information from ARC databases. Valued indigenous vegetation in the Region includes a continuum of various stages of regeneration. The NZLRI defines scrubland as "areas of woody plants and ferns generally less than 6 m tall". Field work for the NZLRI was carried out between 1972-79, and updated between 1981-84. Some areas then recorded as scrubland would now be considered forest. No attempt has been made here to account for this change. The totals for protected areas are only up-to-date for ARC and DoC land. As can be seen from this table "scrubland" is the predominant indigenous vegetation class across the Region. These scrublands are mostly young regenerating native forest, some of which will still be dominated by manuka and kanuka. The rest have quickly advanced to a stage where they display a rich combination of trees, shrubs and ferns. The future of Auckland's flora and fauna such as the kauri and kereru is dependent upon the retention and continuing succession of these young forests of manuka and kanuka.

Table 6.1

Percentage of indigenous vegetation cover by ecological district in the Auckland Region both current and pre-European.

Ecological district	Forest * %	Scrub * %	Freshwater wetland * %	Total %	Total protected *
Rodney	9.9 (80)	14.6 (15)	0.1 (5)	24.6	3.2
Kaipara	2.1 (?)	10.6 (70)	1.2 (5)	13.9	4.7
Waitakere	25.2 (95)	57.7 (<5)	0.7 (<5)	82.9	51.1
Rangitoto	20.3	79.7	0.0	100	100.0
Tamaki	1.1 (<5)	5.2 (85)	0.03 (10)	6.3	1.8
Inner gulf	9.5	31.4	0.1	41	13.8
Manukau	0.6 (60)	1.2 (30)	0.1 (5)	1.8	0.5
Awhitu	1.4 (90)	7.6 (5)	0.1 (5)	9.1	1.1
Hunua	17.3 (95)	22.5	0.1 (<5)	39.9	22.0
Little Barrier Island	91.3	8.2	0.0	99.5	100.0
Great Barrier Island	41.5	32.6	2.3	76.4	51.9

* Percentage of total land area of ecological district in the Region. Figures in brackets are estimates of the possible vegetation cover in pre-European times based on historical commentaries.

It is probable that some areas of the Region have always had scrublands, for example, on stabilised sand country in the Kaipara or in Tamaki.

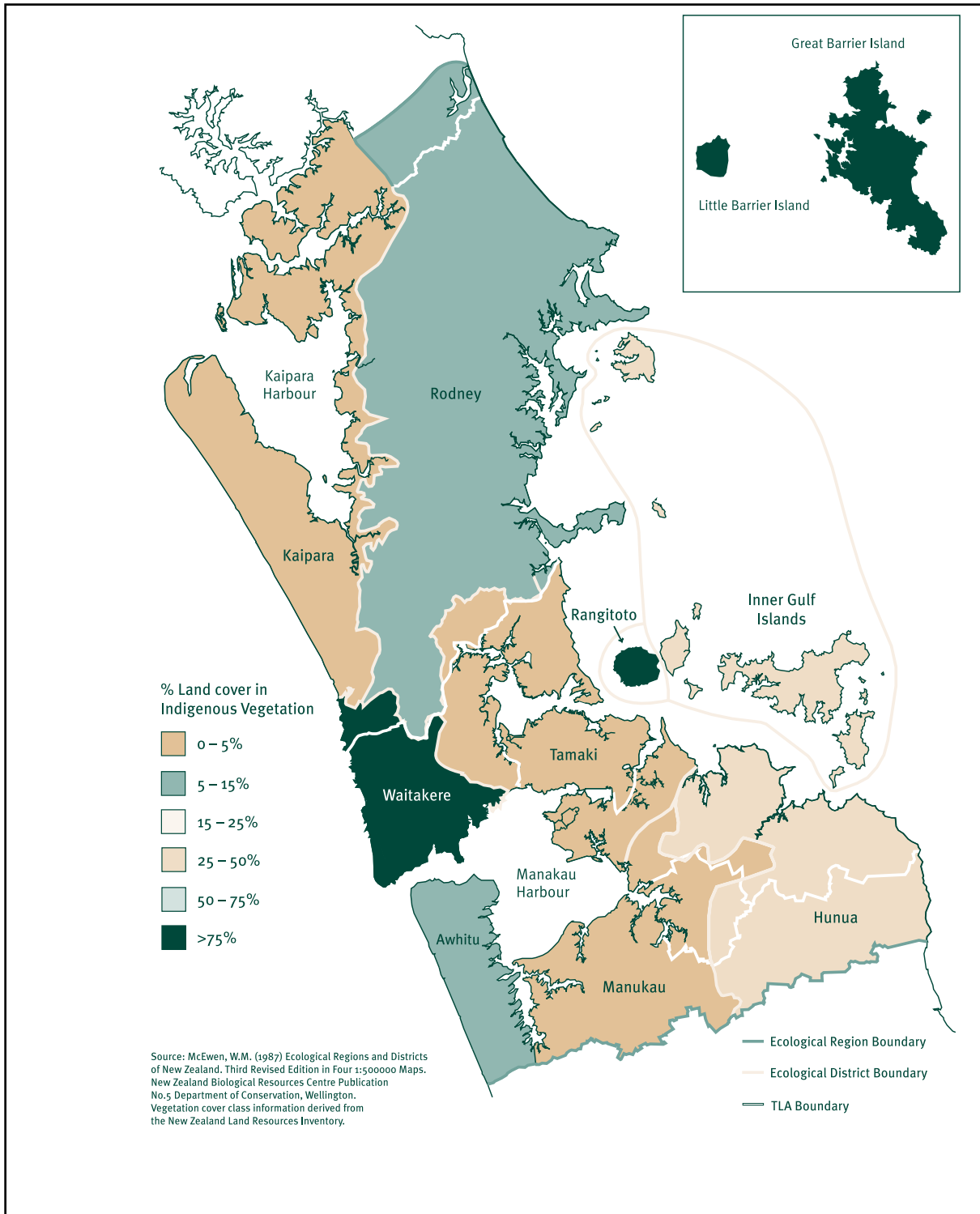
However the predominant cover in the Region was forest, with areas of scrub and pockets of freshwater wetlands.

Freshwater wetlands have never been extensive in the Region, except perhaps on the isthmus in association with explosion craters. Today they are small and scattered, mostly around lake and stream margins, although larger wetlands are found on Great Barrier

Island and in the Waitakere Ranges. Their scarcity is reflected in the increasingly threatened status of the flora and fauna associated with them.

Table 6.1 shows the uneven distribution of protected areas across the Region which, in places, closely parallels the extensive loss of indigenous vegetation. It is in these same areas that very little is known about the biological communities which have been lost, or that remain.

Figure 6.1



The rate of species extinction in the Auckland Region since human occupation is not certain. However, in the Waitakere Ranges, an area with extensive indigenous vegetation cover relative to other parts of the Region, at least eight bird species have been lost in the last 150 years. It also has 43 threatened plant species, the highest number in the Auckland mainland. Tamaki Ecological District, where vegetation cover is much reduced, is believed to have had 92 local plant extinctions. These figures do not provide any more than a simplistic analysis of the biodiversity status in the Region, or a definitive measure of an ecological threshold. However, they do illustrate the imperative to control the continuing loss and degradation of the Region's natural areas and the continuing consequences of failure to do so.

The ongoing conservation of Auckland's biological diversity requires the restoration of damaged ecosystems, the recovery of threatened species, the control of pests, the willing commitment of all landowners (both public and private) to protect ecosystems in their care, and a conscious effort to minimise adverse effects from use and development.

6.2.4 Cultural Heritage

There is no comprehensive evaluation of the state of the Region's cultural heritage. In the metropolitan area over 50% of pa have been extensively modified or destroyed. Of the original 8000 hectares of stone field areas, less than 200 hectares are still in existence. Between 1979 and 1995, 395 archaeological sites within the Auckland Region have been destroyed or modified (approximately 6% of known sites). Forty-two Auckland buildings listed with the NZHPT, Wellington, as being places of historical and cultural significance, have been destroyed within the last 10 years.

6.2.5 Geological Heritage

Auckland has a diverse range of areas and features of geological significance that form part of its natural and physical heritage. These areas and features can be adversely affected by inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

The Auckland Region is endowed with a rich and diverse variety of natural landforms, geological features and soils. In combination, these features document the unique geological history of the Region, the development of its landforms, and the evolution of its biota. Protection of Auckland's geological heritage has been random with the result that many of its geological features have not

been protected.

The two most well known features of the Auckland Region are its coastal setting, which has been shaped by both geological and contemporary coastal processes and the range of large and smaller scale features that comprise its volcanic fields.

The Region has two volcanic fields. The Auckland volcanic field covers about 100 km² and it originally contained 48 small explosion centres that gave rise to the landmark scoria cones of urban Auckland and to Rangitoto, Motukorea and Puketutu Islands. It also produced a smaller number of explosion craters and tuff rings. Issue 6.2.6 discusses further the protection and management of the Region's volcanic cones and explosion craters and tuff rings, the three most well known and visually apparent Regionally Significant Volcanic Features.

Other volcanic features are associated with the extensive lava flows that extruded from the cones and spread out to underlie much of urban Auckland. Only small areas of these lava flows now remain relatively unmodified, such as the seaward portion of Te Tokoroa (Meola) Reef, or the Otuaataua Lava Flow. These lava flows also include associated caves and tunnels and geological exposures. A number of these features are of regional or national significance, while others may be of local significance, or may contribute more cumulatively to the volcanic landscape and character of the region. Some of these volcanic features are known, while others may only be discovered during the course of development projects or works.

The Franklin Volcanic Field, which spans both the Auckland and Waikato Regions, contained 80 identified volcanoes. Being older than Auckland's volcanoes, the Franklin volcanoes are more eroded and weathered and therefore more difficult to recognise as volcanic features. The volcanic origin of much of this landscape is revealed by the presence of the rich red volcanic soils and the sloping forms of Pukekohe and Bombay Hills and by the presence of tuff rings at Barriball Road, Ingram Road and Ravensthorpe and the Pukekohe East Tuff Ring, which is in the north west of the Pukekohe East and Runciman Roads. Because of this, management of the Franklin volcanic field is more closely aligned with landscape management rather than through the specific identification of individually significant volcanic features.

Regionally Significant volcanic features have social, cultural, historical, geological, archaeological, scientific, ecological, amenity, open space and landscape values and many are of regional, national and/or international significance. Other volcanic features may have these values, but due to their type, size, state of preservation or relative abundance are not considered to be of regional significance. They may, however, be considered to be of local significance, and in these circumstances their management is expected to occur primarily through the district plan and other, non-RMA, mechanisms.

All types of geological features in the Auckland Region have been subject to modification, or loss by use and development. The most extensive change has been to the Auckland volcanic field with the loss or significant modification of both large and small scale volcanic features to urban development. Buildings and infrastructure mask the original form of many large scale features, while site specific development affects smaller scale features, both individually and cumulatively.

Excavation, land re-contouring and quarrying have resulted in the loss of geological features of many types. This quarrying continues in some locations by way of existing use rights, district plan rules, land-use consents and mineral permits. This, coupled with public concern over the loss of heritage values associated with the volcanic field, has produced conflict between the value of the aggregate and the heritage value of the features. Chapter 13 - Minerals also covers these issues.

6.2.6 Auckland's Outstanding and Regionally Significant Volcanic Features

The physical and visual integrity and values of the volcanic cones and other regionally significant volcanic features, can be adversely affected by subdivision, use and development that directly impacts on their structure, or by inappropriate development in surrounding areas.

Important views to the volcanic cones from urban Auckland and their value as outstanding natural features can also be compromised by inappropriately located, or inappropriately sized development.

The volcanic cones are iconic features of Auckland. They give the Region its unique character and identity and set this urban area apart from other cities in the world.

Their contribution to the character of the Region arises not only from their individual identities as outstanding natural features, but also from their number and juxtaposition within the urban landscape. They provide islands of naturalness, of open space and of green that interact with an urban landscape which continues to change as a result of urban growth and development.

Many views of the cones are inextricably linked with images of Auckland. For example, Maungauika (North Head), Takarunga (Mt Victoria), Rangitoto, Motukorea (Browns Island) and Te Pane O Mataaho (Mangere Mountain) and Maungarei (Mt Wellington) are key markers of Auckland's maritime setting. Other volcanic cones such as Pukekaroro (Auckland Domain), Maungawhau (Mt Eden), Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill), Koheraunui (Big King of Three Kings), Owairaka (Mt Albert), Puketapapa (Mt Roskill), Te Kopuke (Mt St John), Remuwera (Mt Hobson) and Otahuhu (Mt Richmond) are physical markers and identifiers at both the regional and local level. They are outstanding natural features and have a landscape value that arises from their combination of naturalness within an urban environment and their cultural associations.

The volcanic cones are of international, national and regional significance. They are of particular significance to Tangata Whenua of the Region, as ancestral land and taonga, being both sites of occupation and battle. Physical occupation is reflected in the presence of complex earthworks terraces, ditches, pits and middens. They are also central to the identity of Tangata Whenua as tribal groups within the Region and are places to which Maori have a deep spiritual and cultural attachment.

The volcanic cones have also become part of the valued natural and cultural heritage of the wider Auckland community. As well as views to and between the volcanic cones, views from the cones across the urban, rural and maritime landscape are part of the local and visitor experience of the Auckland Region.

Although the scoria cones are the most visual expression of Auckland's volcanic heritage, other volcanic features are also recognised as being regionally significant volcanic features and make an important contribution to the Region's landscape and geological heritage. Larger scale explosion craters and tuff rings provide significant and well known local landmarks, as well as being of national and regional significance. Lake Pupuke, Tank Farm (Tuff Crater), Orakei and Panmure Basins and Pukaki and Mangere Lagoons are all examples of

explosion craters with tuff rings. Due to its international geological significance the Wiri Lava Cave is also listed as a regionally significant volcanic feature, as is the Te Tokoroa (Meola) Reef. Appendix B provides further information on the values of the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features.

Auckland's volcanic heritage has been extensively modified with the result that none of the Region's volcanoes remain completely intact. Of Auckland's 34 volcanic cones, 17 are protected (in part as public reserve), 10 have been completely destroyed and the remainder have been modified to a greater or lesser extent. Of the Region's 17 explosion craters, seven are protected in part with the remainder having been modified by a variety of uses.

Urban development within the Metropolitan Urban Limits, including infrastructure and the development of multi-unit and high rise buildings can affect the physical integrity of the volcanic features themselves, as well as their surroundings, and the views to and from the volcanic cones. Unsympathetic urban development has occurred on some privately owned sections on the slopes of several volcanoes. Inappropriately high or bulky buildings or other structures or planting, or inappropriately located structures can adversely affect the physical intactness, visual quality and visibility of the cones, their value as outstanding natural features and heritage icons and their visual and physical links to the wider urban landscape of Auckland.

Urban development on many of the explosion craters and tuff rings has also resulted in significant physical modification of their original topography, as well as masking of their overall land form and volcanic origins. This has meant a loss in the diversity of Auckland's volcanic features.

The development of key infrastructure, including water supply reservoirs and roads has affected the physical integrity of several volcanic features (cones and tuff rings) and further development has the potential to impact on others.

Chapter 2 provides guidance on the provision of new or upgraded regionally significant infrastructure. The policies in Chapter 2 acknowledge that the social and economic wellbeing of the regional community is dependent on the availability of infrastructure, including the regional transport network. Uncertainty about the location, extent and degree of modification of significant

volcanic features can impede attempts to protect them when planning and implementing regionally significant infrastructure and other development.

Many of the volcanic cones and other volcanic features have located within them (underground) or in some cases above ground, existing water supply reservoirs and related facilities. This infrastructure is important for the water supply of the Auckland Region and their past and present use for this purpose is one component of their social and historic value to the community. These facilities will need to continue to serve the water supply management needs of the region into the foreseeable future, and will require maintenance and on occasion replacement. Some new facilities will also be required from time to time, but it is expected that these can be located outside of the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features. It is important that the provisions in this chapter provide for the continued operation, maintenance and replacement of the existing water supply infrastructure.

The Regionally Significant Volcanic Features occur on public and private land. The majority of the volcanic cones and many of the other features identified in this RPS are predominantly held as reserves and managed by either the Department of Conservation or territorial authorities. However, many of them include areas of land on the periphery of the reserve land that are held in private ownership, frequently with extensive existing development, but which are nevertheless an integral part of the feature. Other features are largely or completely in private ownership.

Inappropriate management actions can adversely affect the natural and cultural heritage values of the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features. Such actions can include inappropriately located or designed buildings or earthworks for pedestrian, cycle or road access and vehicle parking, inappropriate planting or grazing by stock, or the allocation of areas of the reserves for exclusive use by particular groups (eg sports facilities). The former actions have direct physical and visual effects on the cones, while the latter affects the ability of the public to freely access all parts of the volcanic cone reserve.

6.2.7 Landscape

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

Auckland's volcanic cones, its urban, rural, coastal, estuarine 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).

Other landscapes may be important for their amenity values 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.

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.

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

- (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;
- (iv) the spectacle of the West Coast margins of the Waitakere Ranges, that comprise shorn cliffs and extensive indigenous vegetation interspersed with 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;
- (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;
- (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;
- (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;
- (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 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;

- (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;
- (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;
- (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;
- (xiii) 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;
- (xiv) the extensive and changing form of Auckland's built environment, as a prominent feature 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;

~~(xv) 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.

~~Urban expansion affects visually sensitive landscapes around the urban edge. Infill suburban development, and high rise buildings in the city centre, affect the visibility of Auckland's volcanic cones. Hilltop transmission towers punctuate the skylines of major hill ranges. Rural residential development modifies many of the rural landscapes, and coastal settlements affect the visual quality or sensitivity of coastal and island landscapes and seascapes in the Region.~~

~~The visual effects of development and change must be considered in the process of managing the Region's natural and physical resources in order to protect the quality and sensitivity of the landscape.~~

6.2.7.1 Outstanding Natural Landscapes

The naturalness of Outstanding Natural Landscapes is being adversely affected by inappropriate changes in subdivision, use and development and increasing levels of human modification, in particular countryside living and coastal development.

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 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 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.

Activities such as urban development, land clearance, mining and quarrying, 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.

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.

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 Awahitu 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 in areas with high natural landscape values in close proximity to the urban area. This threatens to undermine those values.

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.

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. Extractive industries may also want to locate within or expand into an Outstanding Natural Landscape because of the presence of a mineral resource.

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.

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 and the foothills of the Waitakere Ranges. Other urban, rural, coastal and island landscapes are an important part of individual and community, as well as regional amenity values. Landscapes with good amenity values are also 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 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. 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.

6.2.7.3 Adverse Cumulative Effects

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

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 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.

Inadequate consideration of and response to adverse cumulative effects can result in a reduction or loss of naturalness in Outstanding Natural Landscapes as fewer, or areas remain free from the presence of significant built structures. They can also give rise to 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 natural character and natural landscape values, as discussed in Issues 6.2.7.1 to 6.2.7.3 above.

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

1. *To preserve or protect a diverse and representative range of the Auckland Region's heritage resources.*
2. *To maintain, enhance or provide public access to the Region's heritage resources consistent with their ownership and maintenance of their heritage value.*
3. *To protect and restore ecosystems and other heritage resources, whose heritage value and/or viability is threatened.*
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 Strategic Direction in this RPS.*
7. *To protect and where practicable enhance the visual and physical integrity and values of the volcanic features of the Auckland Region of local, regional, national and/or international significance including social, cultural, historical, geological, archaeological, scientific, ecological, amenity, iwi, open space and landscape values.*
8. *To protect significant views to and between Auckland's volcanic cones.*
9. *To manage heritage resources in an integrated way to ensure their contribution to the variety of heritage values is protected and enhanced.*

6.4 Policies, Methods And Reasons

6.4.1 Policies: Heritage preservation and protection.

The following policies and methods give effect to Objectives 6.3.1 and 3.

1. *The significance of natural and physical resources in the Auckland Region which are of value as heritage resources will be established by reference to the criteria set out in Policies 6.4.7-1 and 2, 6.4.13-1 and 6.4.16-1.*
2. *The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga shall be recognised and provided for in the preservation or protection of the heritage resources of the Auckland Region.*

(Refer also to Chapter 3 – Matters of Significance to Iwi)

3. *The subdivision of land, and use and development of natural and physical resources shall be controlled in such a manner that:*
 - (i) *the values of heritage resources of international, national or regional significance are preserved or protected from significant adverse effects.*
 - (ii) *where preservation or protection and avoidance of significant adverse effects on the values of such significant heritage resources is not practicably achievable, such significant adverse effects shall be remedied, or mitigated.*
 - (iii) *In the context of this Policy, significant adverse effects would include:*
 - *the destruction of the state and physical integrity of significant heritage resources or of a significant physical or biological process to the level where the maintenance of that process cannot be assured;*
 - *the destruction of or significant reduction in the educational, scientific or amenity value of a significant heritage resources, or of that heritage feature's contribution to significant natural character and landscape values;*
 - *the fragmentation of significant connections of indigenous vegetation between significant ecosystems;*
 - *the loss of a threatened or protected species;*
 - *a significant reduction in the abundance or natural diversity of significant indigenous*

flora and fauna;

- *a significant reduction in the value of the historical, cultural and spiritual association with significant heritage resources which are held by Tangata Whenua and the wider community;*
- *a significant reduction in the value of significant heritage resources in their wider historical, cultural, and landscape contexts;*
- *the loss of significant historic places, areas and waahi tapu;*
- *a significant modification of the viability or value of significant heritage resources as a result of the use or development of other land in the vicinity of the heritage resource.*

(Refer to policies 6.4.7, 6.4.13 and 6.4.16)

6.4.2 Methods

1. *Regional and district plans shall include provisions which preserve or protect (as appropriate) heritage resources identified in Appendix B of the RPS and the values of those identified as significant using criteria in Policies 6.4.7-1 and 2, and 6.4.13-1 and 6.4.16.*
2. *In preparing regional, district and annual plans the following mechanisms for the preservation and protection of heritage resources should be considered:*
 - (i) *advocacy and the provision of information;*
 - (ii) *providing for voluntary heritage preservation and protection;*
 - (iii) *providing for incentives and economic instruments, e.g., for restoration or fencing;*
 - (iv) *discretionary controls to facilitate protection, e.g., bush lot subdivision;*
 - (v) *regulatory controls, e.g., volcanic cone viewshafts, rules, abatement and enforcement orders;*
 - (vi) *heritage orders and water conservation orders;*
 - (vii) *land acquisition and designation, including the use of funding sources such as the Forest Heritage Fund, and Nga Whenua Rahui;*
 - (viii) *the provision of esplanade reserves and*

marginal strips;

- (ix) *disincentives which penalise non-compliance with controls;*
 - (x) *prohibition of activities*
 - (xi) *provision of works and services;*
 - (xii) *use of rates relief;*
 - (xiii) *pest animal and pest weed control;*
 - (xiv) *mechanisms available under the Local Government Act 2002.*
3. *Regional and district plans shall include provisions for the taking of financial contributions for the preservation, protection and restoration of heritage resources, and to offset any unavoidable adverse effects to heritage resources.*
 4. *With reference to Policy 6.4.1-1 identification of the significance of heritage resources is to include a statement describing the qualities and value and, where appropriate, location, of each heritage resource which justifies their preservation, protection, maintenance or enhancement.*
 5. *Regional plan provisions or changes to the RPS will be prepared which:*
 - (i) *identify heritage resources;*
 - (ii) *provide details and values of heritage resources;*
 - (iii) *deal with heritage assessment, preservation and protection, restoration and enhancement, effects analysis, plan evaluation procedures, the level of heritage resource loss, and the degree of resource fragmentation in the Region;*
 - (iv) *develop comprehensive strategies for the preservation or protection, restoration and enhancement of heritage resources;*
 - (v) *deal with landscape assessment and protection.*
 6. *The ARC will, and other heritage protection agencies should, use Heritage Orders and Water Conservation Orders to preserve or protect significant heritage resources where appropriate.*
 7. *The ARC and TAs will consult with the public, appropriate agencies, and landowners in recognising heritage sites and areas.*

8. *The ARC and TAs will consult with Tangata Whenua to recognise heritage sites and areas of significance to Iwi and hapu.*
9. *The ARC will promote an integrated and co-ordinated approach to heritage management through consultation and the provision of information (such as the Cultural Heritage Inventory).*
10. *The ARC and TAs will encourage and actively promote a greater public awareness and understanding of heritage resources by:*
 - (i) *providing advice and information on heritage resources where appropriate;*
 - (ii) *advocating the conservation of heritage resources as appropriate;*
 - (iii) *developing and implementing heritage education programmes where appropriate.*

6.4.3 Reasons

These policies and methods, and those that follow relating to specific aspects of heritage, have been prepared to:

- Preserve or protect significant heritage resources which are listed in the RPS, regional plans and district plans.
- Establish a co-ordinated and systematic process for evaluating, recording and eventually preserving or protecting other heritage resources about which local authorities have little information at present.
- Provide an opportunity for the recognition and preservation or protection of heritage resources of importance to Tangata Whenua.
- Control adverse effects on heritage resources.
- Encourage public involvement in the recognition, preservation and protection of heritage resources.
- Foster community support for the preservation and protection of heritage resources.

Used in combination the mechanisms given in Method 6.4.2-2 will provide a flexible approach to the management of heritage resources. Effective conservation will also require the promotion of kaitiakitanga, and the stewardship and guardianship role of private landowners and land managers.

Schedules of significant heritage resources in the Auckland Region are incomplete. It is therefore important that ARC and TAs give effect to these policies

by considering heritage issues fully in the resource consent granting process as given in Chapter 1.

Within the range of mechanisms for preserving or protecting heritage resources, it is anticipated, without limiting the use of provisions under the RM Act, that heritage orders and water conservation orders will be used by the appropriate agencies when a heritage resource:

- (i) meets the relevant evaluation criteria set out in Policies 6.4.7-1 and 2, 6.4.13-1 and 6.4.16;
- (ii) is likely to be damaged or destroyed by development or use;
- (i) preservation or protection has not been provided for in regional or district plans.

The process through which heritage orders and water conservation orders are given effect is set out in Parts VIII and IX of the RM Act.

ARC and TAs have responsibilities to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources and are Heritage Protection Authorities. ARC and TAs also have a duty to gather information, monitor and keep records. Methods in this chapter relate to these responsibilities and the primary objective to preserve or protect a diverse and representative range of heritage resources. The education of the community about heritage resources and the provision of heritage information are seen as important functions of local authorities. The scoping and programming for preparation of regional plan provisions or changes to the RPS which are referred to in Method 6.4.2-4 will be undertaken in consultation with TAs, Tangata Whenua, DoC and other agencies and persons having a particular interest in heritage matters.

6.4.4 Policies: Heritage use and access.

The following policies and methods give effect to Objective 6.3-2

1. *The social and economic opportunities offered by heritage resources may be recognised and utilised where the use does not compromise the intrinsic or amenity values of the resources.*
2. *Public access to heritage resources shall be maintained and enhanced where practicable and appropriate.*
3. *When enhancing public access to heritage resources, priority shall be given to those heritage resources which are:*

- (i) *of high amenity or recreational value;*
 - (ii) *of importance to Tangata Whenua for carrying out customary activities and in order to exercise kaitiakitanga;*
(Refer also to Chapter 3 – Matters of Significance to Iwi)
 - (iii) *of regional, national or international heritage value;*
 - (iv) *adjacent to the areas identified in Appendix B and indicated in Map Series 2 and 3, where this would be consistent with the preservation or protection of natural and cultural heritage values;*
 - (v) *adjacent to esplanade reserves or other public open space where the enhancement of public access would contribute to the linking together of disconnected reserves.*
4. *Public access to heritage resources shall be restricted where it is necessary to:*
- (i) *preserve or protect conservation values;*
 - (ii) *preserve or protect sites and areas of Maori spiritual and cultural value;*
 - (iii) *protect public health and safety;*
 - (iv) *ensure a level of security consistent with the purpose of a resource consent;*
 - (v) *in other exceptional circumstances, that justify the restriction notwithstanding the national importance of maintaining access;*
 - (vi) *protect areas prone to natural hazards.*

6.4.5 Methods

1. *The ARC, TAs and DoC will ensure that tourism and recreational use of heritage resources does not detract from the conservation values of those resources.*
2. *The ARC, TAs and DoC will recognise significant heritage resources listed in the RPS, regional plans and district plans, and in non-statutory documents, to guide them in the future purchase of land for conservation, public open space and reserves.*
3. *The ARC, through the operation of its Regional park network, will actively conserve Regional open space and promote the conservation of heritage resources through its education and interpretation programmes and facilities.*
4. *The ARC will, in conjunction with DoC, TAs,*

Tangata Whenua, landowners and interest groups, identify priority areas for public access to heritage resources based on criteria in Policies 6.4.4 -3 and 6.4.4 -4 and Chapter 18. Once identified, TAs will make provision for appropriate access to these heritage resources in district plans.

6.4.6 Reasons

While emphasising the preservation or protection of the Region's heritage resources, it will be necessary to adopt and promote a balanced approach in the management of the resource. Thus the use and development of the resource must be provided for, while ensuring that its inherent values and life supporting capacity are not compromised.

The policies and methods concerning public access highlight the potential for conflict between enhancing access to heritage resources and those circumstances in which it is appropriate to limit or restrict access. Priority will be given to enhancing access to heritage resources of recognised value in order to ensure the enjoyment and realisation of the amenity, ecological, recreational, educational, scientific and cultural value of those resources, for both present and future generations. However, where public access to heritage resources may not be appropriate for a range of conservation, Maori cultural, public health and safety reasons, or to give effect to a resource consent, it will be limited or restricted.

In addition, it is also recognised that the majority of the heritage resources of the Auckland Region are located on private land and that public access to privately owned land may not always be practicable or appropriate. The identification of priority areas for the enhancement of public access to heritage resources must be undertaken in a co-operative manner involving consultation with the ARC, DoC, TAs, Tangata Whenua, landowners, and other relevant interest groups. Provision for these priority areas will then be made using provisions in district and regional plans.

6.4.7 Policies: Evaluation of natural heritage.

The following policies and methods give effect to Objective 6.3-1.

1. *The significance of natural heritage resources in the Region, and the identification of the qualities and values which give rise to their significance, shall be determined using criteria including the following:*
 - (i) *the extent to which an area is representative or characteristic of the natural diversity in an ecological district or contains outstanding or*

- rare indigenous community types;
- (ii) the presence of a threatened species or uncommon, special or distinctive features;
 - (iii) the extent to which a natural area can maintain its ecological viability over time;
 - (iv) the extent to which an area is of sufficient size and shape to maintain its intrinsic values;
 - (v) the relationship a natural feature has with its surrounding landscape, including its role as an ecological corridor or riparian margin, and the extent of buffering or protection from external adverse effects;
 - (vi) the natural diversity of species of flora and fauna, biological communities and ecosystems, geological or edaphic features such as landforms and land processes, parent material, and records of past processes;
 - (vii) the diversity of ecological pattern, such as the change in species composition or communities along environmental gradients;
 - (viii) the extent to which an area is still reflective of its original natural character and quality;
 - (ix) the extent to which an area provides an important habitat for species at different stages of their life cycle, e.g., breeding, spawning, roosting, feeding, and haul-out areas for the New Zealand fur seal;
 - (x) the importance of an area to Tangata Whenua. (Refer also to Chapter 3 – Matters of Significance to Iwi)
2. In assessing natural heritage resources, their contribution to the viability of the Region's ecosystems will be considered significant if they exhibit the following characteristics:
- (i) the area provides a characteristic example of the ecology of the local area; and
 - (ii) the area is of good quality (e.g., for natural areas it has an intact understorey and is characterised by a low level of invasion from pest species); and
 - (iii) the area contributes to the ecological viability of surrounding areas and biological communities; or
 - (iv) the area contains a Regionally threatened species or a unique or special feature; or
 - (v) the area contains an unprotected ecosystem type, or an ecosystem type under-represented within the protected area network of an ecological district; or
 - (vi) the area is a component of, adjoins or provides a buffer to, a significant natural resource, or a watercourse or coastal margin; or
 - (vii) the area has habitat values, or provides or contributes to a habitat corridor or connection facilitating the movement of fish or wildlife species in the local area; or
 - (viii) the area is in a landscape which is depleted of indigenous vegetation; or
 - (ix) the protection of the area adds significantly to the spatial characteristics of the protected area network (e.g., by improving connectivity or reducing distance to the next protected area); or
 - (x) the area is significant to Tangata Whenua; or (Refer also to Chapter 3 – Matters of Significance to Iwi)
 - (xi) there is a community association with, or public appreciation of, the aesthetic values of the landform or feature.
3. The heritage value of freshwater ecosystems shall be progressively identified and protected from the adverse effects of use and development.
- #### 6.4.8 Method
1. The ARC in consultation with TAs will develop and maintain comprehensive and accessible natural heritage databases.
 2. The ARC in consultation with other relevant agencies will develop a Regional evaluation methodology for freshwater ecosystems.
- The implementation of Policy 6.4.7 will also rely on Methods 6.4.2 – 1 to 10.
- #### 6.4.9 Reasons
- Regionally significant natural heritage resources include those evaluated at regional, national and international levels (see Appendix B). Resources of district significance

include those valued at the district and local levels. In general, the ARC will identify significant natural heritage resources at the regional level and TAs will be responsible for identification at the district level. Natural heritage resources of significance to Iwi may be at either regional, district or local levels.

Joint work between DoC and the ARC has resulted in the identification of “Sites of Natural Significance” where the values of those sites are considered to meet the requirements of section 6 (a), (b) and (c) of the RM Act. These sites have been published in the Draft Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Auckland 1993 – 2003, Volume II, and will be considered along with other sites for inclusion in a variation to the RPS. Notes on the values of each place or feature and an assessment of their vulnerability to adverse effects will be contained in a variation to the RPS.

The CMS maps of significant natural heritage resources have been created from the results of national and regional inventories for natural and physical resources. These include the Auckland Regional Planning Scheme, Protected Natural Area Programme, Sites of Special Wildlife Interest, Wetlands of Ecological and Representative Importance, and Geopreservation Inventories. These inventories use evaluation criteria such as representativeness, rarity, size and shape, naturalness and quality, life cycle requirements, diversity and pattern, long-term ecological viability, buffering and surrounding landscape. While these national evaluation systems have been useful at identifying sites of regional and, to a lesser extent, district significance, they require extensions of methodology to adequately determine values at the local level. Regional plan policy or technical guidelines will be prepared which contain evaluation methods which are useful and consistent at this level.

The criteria for determining local significance are based in part on the evaluation criteria discussed above, but also include the maintenance of threshold levels of indigenous vegetation. Due to the extent of natural area loss and degradation in the Auckland Region, local areas which do not in themselves trigger the criteria in Policy 6.4.7.1 may still be considered of regional significance in their role in maintaining the health and long term survival of ecosystems and their constituent parts in the Region. Policy 6.4.7.2 defines criteria by which the values and quality of such sites should be measured.

Some aspects and localities of natural heritage resources

have not been comprehensively described and evaluated. For example, the habitat values of fresh-water and coastal areas for aquatic species, and remnant vegetation in Awhitu and south Kaipara peninsulas, southern Manukau and parts of the isthmus have not been evaluated in comparative terms. Further evaluation exercises and priorities for evaluation will be developed in consultation with relevant agencies and will be facilitated through regional plan provisions or changes to the RPS.

6.4.10 Policies: Restoration of natural heritage.

The following policies and methods give effect to Objective 6.3-5.

1. Significant ecosystems that have been damaged or depleted should be protected and restored to the stage where their continued viability is no longer under threat.

See Policies 14.4.1 (1) in Chapter 14; and Method 8.4.5-3, Policies 8.4.21, and Methods 8.4.22 (2) and (3) in Chapter 8.

2. In the restoration and rehabilitation of heritage resources, opportunities should be taken which ensure that, where appropriate,:

(i) resources are brought closer to their original state;

(ii) resources or ecosystems are replaced by those of a similar type and size ('no net loss' approach);

(iii) factors which reduce long-term viability are controlled (e.g., pests, fragmentation of habitats);

(iv) public access, recognition and interpretation of the values of that resource are provided;

(v) practical expression of kaitiakitanga is provided;

(Refer also to Chapter 3 – Matters of Significance to Iwi)

(vi) physical (e.g., fencing) and or legal protection is provided;

(vii) in revegetation work, use of indigenous species naturally occurring in the general vicinity and use of local genetic stock is considered;

(viii) barriers to the reintroduction of indigenous species are removed.

3. Restoration of natural areas or ecosystems or landscaping with indigenous plants, particularly for sites which abut existing protected natural areas or significant heritage resources, should maximise the opportunity of using indigenous plants from the

local gene stock.

6.4.11 Methods

1. *The ARC and TAs will consider the provision of incentives and information to promote the protection or restoration of ecosystems and heritage resources including, where appropriate, the use of locally sourced indigenous plants.*
2. *When using indigenous plant species in mass plantings or restoration work, reserve management agencies should, where practicable, use locally sourced plants appropriate to local conditions.*
3. *The ARC and TAs should consider the use of indigenous plants, including those which improve habitat quality, when assessing landscaping work required by resource consents.*

6.4.12 Reasons

As a consequence of the level of depletion of heritage resources in the Region, restoration, as well as the identification and protection of those heritage resources that remain, is essential. This is particularly the case for indigenous ecosystems to ensure the continued survival of biological communities within the Region.

Restoration can include a number of concepts such as, carrying out management activities which return a place or feature closer to its original state, the re-introduction of a feature that once existed in that place, and the creation of a heritage feature which attempts to replicate the original.

Natural Heritage Restoration

There are already in this Region many restoration projects which are focused on the re-creation of indigenous ecosystems by revegetation, the re-introduction of species of flora and fauna, and rehabilitation work by pest control. Restoration work is being carried out by both resource and reserve management authorities, and by the initiatives of independent agencies. Notable in this regard is the work by DoC on Tiritiri Matangi and Motutapu islands; Project Crimson which is focused on the restoration and rehabilitation of pohutukawa forests; and the Trees for Survival Trust Project planting indigenous species for erosion control. The ARC is carrying out programmes to investigate techniques to restore streams which include riparian planting and improvement of the habitat quality for indigenous fish,

birds and insects. TAs can provide for revegetation programmes through: financial contributions on subdivision; as conditions on resource consents; in their own reserve management activities; as well as in the composition of street plantings. Private landowners have an important role to play in restoration initiatives by carrying out restoration programmes on their land with help from various sources of funding or agencies which can provide assistance such as the provision of plants, labour, information and advice.

An important concept in revegetation work includes planting appropriate indigenous species. Appropriate species include those that occur within their natural geographic range, e.g., plants that would naturally occur in Auckland; planting species in habitats in which they would normally be found, e.g., pohutukawa along the coastline; and planting species which are from local plant material.

The consequences of inappropriate planting range from interference with distribution and trends in the evolution of indigenous plants to the failure of plantings. The primary concern in relation to the effects of not using locally sourced material is that many plants exhibit a wide variation of characteristics throughout New Zealand. The best documented species which exhibits such wide variation in plant characteristics is kowhai. Flower and seed colour, leaflet size, and even shape (weeping, prostrate, or erect forms) can vary from place to place.

It is recommended that in revegetation work indigenous plant species are used which are:

- i) normally found in the surrounding district;
- ii) planted in ecologically appropriate places;
- iii) grown from seed or plant stock obtained from either the same patch of vegetation or the same catchment as the planting site.

If plant sources from outside the district are used, it is useful to record the nature of the revegetation work. Details that could be recorded include the species and number planted, the source of planting (nursery or locality), and success of the planting (survival rate and naturalisation).

Another important concept in restoration is the consideration of an overall 'no net loss' approach to ecosystems that have been reduced to very low levels in

the Region. One ecosystem component that appears to most need such an approach in this Region is freshwater wetlands, which as Table 6.1 indicates, are at very low levels in the Auckland Region. The concept of ‘no net loss’ includes avoidance, where possible, of the destruction of existing wetlands. If this is not possible, then a preferred mitigating action is the creation of a wetland or, failing that, the protection of an existing unprotected wetland. The concept of ‘no net loss’ could also be extended to other ecosystem components in areas where there is very little indigenous vegetation cover remaining (refer to Table 6.1).

6.4.13 Policies: Evaluation of geological heritage.

The following policies and methods give effect to Objective 6.3-1

1. *The significance of geological heritage resources in the Region, and identification of the qualities which give rise to their significance, will be determined using criteria which include the following:*

- (i) *the extent to which an area or feature reflects important or representative aspects of Auckland or New Zealand’s geological history;*
- (ii) *the extent to which an area or feature is representative or characteristic of the natural diversity of the Region;*
- (iii) *the potential of the feature or site to provide knowledge of Auckland or New Zealand’s geological history;*
- (iv) *the potential of the feature or site for public education;*
- (v) *the community association with, or public appreciation of, the aesthetic values of the landform or feature;*
- (vi) *the state of preservation of the feature or site;*
- (vii) *the rarity or unusual nature of the feature or site type;*
- (viii) *the importance of the feature or site to Tangata Whenua.*

(Refer also to Chapter 3 – Matters of Significance to Iwi)

6.4.14 Methods

The implementation of Policy 6.4.13-1 will rely on Methods 6.4.2-1 to -10 and the following:

1. *Resource management agencies will consult with the holders of mining permits (and existing use rights) to encourage and facilitate the voluntary protection*

of volcanic heritage resources.

6.4.15 Reasons

The preservation or protection and survival of the best representative examples of earth science sites and features that document Auckland’s geological history, is important for education, research, aesthetic appreciation and recreation. These values are reflected in the criteria in Policy 6.4.13-1 and underscore the identification of sites in the New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory. This inventory has been prepared by the Joint Earth Sciences Working Group and published by the Geological Society of New Zealand.

6.4.16 Policy: Evaluation of cultural heritage.

The following policy and method gives effect to Objective 6.3-1

The significance of cultural heritage resources in the Region, and the identification of the qualities and values which give rise to their significance, shall be determined using criteria which include the following:

- (i) *the extent to which the place reflects important or representative aspects of Auckland’s or New Zealand’s history;*
- (ii) *the association of the place with the events, persons, or ideas of importance in Auckland’s or New Zealand’s history;*
- (iii) *the potential of the place to provide knowledge of Auckland’s or New Zealand’s history;*
- (iv) *the importance of the place to Tangata Whenua;*
(Refer also to Chapter 3 – Matters of Significance to Iwi)
- (v) *the community association with, or public esteem for, the place;*
- (vi) *the potential of the place for public education;*
- (vii) *the technical accomplishment or value, or design of the place;*
- (viii) *the symbolic or commemorative value of the place;*
- (ix) *the importance of historic places which date from periods of early settlement in Auckland;*
- (x) *rare types of historic place;*
- (xi) *the extent to which the place forms part of a wider historical and cultural complex or historical and cultural landscape;*
- (xii) *the integrity and state of preservation.*

6.4.17 Method

The ARC in conjunction with TAs will maintain and develop the Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI) as a system and resource for promoting the sustainable management of the cultural heritage resources of the Region.

Implementation of Policy 6.4.16 will also rely on Methods 6.4.2-1 to 10.

6.4.18 Reasons

In identifying significant cultural heritage resources, the ARC and TAs will take guidance from section 23 of the Historic Places Act 1993 (HP Act) and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT). The HP Act lists values and criteria which assist with the identification of significant cultural heritage resources and sets a minimum standard (see criteria in Policy 6.4.16). The NZHPT has a statutory obligation under section 22 of the HP Act to establish and maintain a register of historic places, historic areas, waahi tapu and waahi tapu areas. Under sections 22 and 23 of the Act the NZHPT may assign Category I or Category II status to any historic place. Category I status applies to “Places of special or outstanding historical or cultural heritage significance or value”. Category II status applies to “Places of historical or cultural heritage significance or value”.

Criteria for determining the significance of historic buildings or structures are also outlined in Appendix B2 of the NZHPT Cultural Heritage Planning Manual (Dec 1992). Cultural heritage guidelines and criteria for research and evaluation are given by the World Archaeological Congress First Code of Ethics (Members Obligations to Indigenous People [Dec 1990]), the ICOMOS NZ Charter and the NZHPT Cultural Heritage Planning Manual (Dec 1992).

Cultural heritage resources to be listed in regional plans and district plans will include: archaeological sites, buildings and structures, Maori buildings and marae, historic areas, historic places, trees and other natural objects of historical and cultural significance, waahi tapu and waahi tapu areas and other cultural heritage of significance to Iwi where appropriate. (See section 2 of the HP Act for definitions of terms.) All archaeological sites are accorded protection under sections 9 and 10 of the HP Act 1993 whether or not they are registered.

Under section 34 of the HP Act, the Trust is required to maintain and supply to every TA a record of registered

historic places, historic areas, waahi tapu and waahi tapu areas that are located within that TA's district and heritage covenants which have effect in that area.

It is recognised that cultural heritage of significance to Tangata Whenua will be determined by Tangata Whenua. It is also recognised that TAs may develop their own criteria to determine cultural heritage of local and district significance within the framework given by section 23(2) of the HP Act.

Cultural heritage of significance to Tangata Whenua will be identified in a way that is appropriate to each Iwi. Some places and areas are already recognised within the NZ Archaeological Association (NZAA) Auckland Region Archaeological Site Record File. Many significant places, however, are not generally well-known and information concerning them is often of a sensitive nature. It is envisaged that most information relating to cultural heritage places and areas of significance to Tangata Whenua will be compiled by Tangata Whenua and held in their own plans and information systems. TAs are however required to recognise and provide for such places under section 6 (e) of the RM Act. Therefore, processes to achieve this recognition and provision must be developed with Iwi. The location and nature of some sites will be sensitive and therefore protective mechanisms will need to be included in regional plans and district plans to accommodate this. Where the precise location of a place is not revealed, a locality or area can be identified. Consultative processes need to be developed with Iwi for proposals which may affect any defined locality or area. Sensitive information can be held in closed or silent files or safeguarded through the use of an order under section 42 of the RM Act. Guidance in this matter may be taken from the HP Act.

The Cultural Heritage Inventory (CHI) is a database of cultural heritage information which is being developed by ARC with the support and involvement of the seven TA's in the Region. The database provides a tool to both rapidly locate known historic places and areas, and identify where further research efforts are required. The CHI also provides a basis from which to identify places and areas of significance to Iwi in the Region.

6.4.19: Policies: Volcanic Features

The following policies and methods give effect to Objectives 6.3.1, 6.3.7, 6.3.8 and 6.3.9.

1. *The volcanic features of the Auckland Region of local, regional, national and/or international significance*

- shall be managed in an integrated manner to protect their multiple values, including social, cultural, historical, geological, archaeological, scientific, ecological, amenity, open space and landscape values and to maintain the range and diversity of volcanic features within the context of the wider Auckland and Franklin volcanic fields.*
2. *The physical and visual integrity and values of Regionally Significant Volcanic Features shall be protected by:

 - (i) *avoiding activities within the boundaries of the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features shown on Map Series 2a that individually or cumulatively:

 - (a) *result in significant modification or destruction of the feature; or*
 - (b) *detract physically or visually from the values of the feature; and**
 - (ii) *ensuring that, where publicly owned, their open space and amenity values are maintained and where practicable enhanced and that the provision of public access and recreation is consistent with the protection of their other values; and*
 - (iii) *ensuring activities on land surrounding or adjacent to the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features shown in Map Series 2a, or those parts of the volcanic feature described in Appendix B but not shown on Map Series 2a are managed so that significant adverse effects on the values of the features are avoided, remedied or mitigated, and where practicable the values are enhanced.**
3. *Subdivision, use and development shall be managed to ensure that the overall contribution of the volcanic cones identified in Map Series 2a as Outstanding Natural Features to the landscape character of Auckland, is maintained and where practicable enhanced, including physical and visual connections to, and views between, the volcanic cones.*
 4. *The views of volcanic cones that are listed in Appendix L and indicated on Map Series 4a, shall be protected, and intrusion into the defined viewshafts by buildings or structures shall be avoided, except where provided for by specified building heights in Height Sensitive Areas that underlie the viewshafts and are detailed in the district plan and depicted for information purposes in Map Series 4a.*
5. *Urban intensification in High Density Centres and Corridors identified in Schedule 1 shall be undertaken consistent with Policies 6.4.19.1 – 4.*
- 6.4.20 Methods: Volcanic Features and Viewshafts**
1. *Local authorities and other management authorities with responsibility for the management of volcanic features are to:

 - (i) *include in their district and regional plans objectives, policies, rules and other methods, including those available under the Local Government Act 2002, to give effect to Objectives 6.3.6, 6.3.7 and 6.3.8 and Policies 6.4.19;*
 - (ii) *give effect to Policies 6.4.19 in management plans prepared under the Reserves Act 1977 or other legislation, to the extent consistent with the purpose of that legislation.**
 2. *Resource management and reserve management authorities are encouraged to consider a range of options to achieve the integrated management of Auckland's volcanic features. Possible methods include joint management plans, the creation of a network of volcanic feature parks, and co-ordination of interpretive material on Auckland's volcanic features. Continuing co-operation between all responsible agencies is considered essential for the integrated management of Auckland's volcanic features.*
 3. *Provision is to be made in district plans and in the Regional Plan: Coastal to control the location, size and height of buildings and other structures on land or in the coastal marine area under the volcanic cone viewshafts listed in Appendix L.*
 - 3A. *The ARC shall identify, including through the use of maps, those parts of the volcanic features that are described in Appendix B but not shown on Map Series 2a or 3a, and through a future change to the ARPS, will change Map Series 2a to reflect this identification work.*
 4. *Territorial Authorities shall identify and appropriately protect locally significant volcanic features (including, where appropriate, areas referred to in Policy 6.4.19.2(iii) or identified*

through Method 6.4.20.3A), and locally significant views to and between the volcanic cones.

5. *Territorial Authorities are to make provision in their district plans for Height Sensitive Areas around the volcanic cones listed in Appendix L or on intervening landforms where the potential arises for development to intrude into the viewshaft.*
6. *Territorial Authorities are to control the location, size and height of buildings and other structures in these Height Sensitive Areas to provide a visual buffer around the volcanic cone and/or to maintain visibility within the viewshafts.*
7. *Where the maximum permissible building height in any Height Sensitive Area underlying a viewshaft offers the potential for development to penetrate the floor of the viewshaft, Territorial Authorities are to control such development so as to reduce adverse effects on protected views to the greatest practicable extent, including prohibiting development that breaches the height restrictions where appropriate.*
8. *Local authorities and road and rail controlling authorities shall manage vegetation within the land they control, (including the volcanic and other reserves) and any structures such as signs associated with the operation of the reserve, road or rail to ensure that the maintenance of views to the volcanic cones provided by the viewshafts listed in Appendix L, or of the volcanic cones from adjacent roads has been taken into account.*
9. *District plan provisions relating to the protection of trees and other vegetation should in appropriate circumstances, enable the trimming or removal of vegetation to maintain the viewshafts.*
10. *District plans are to specify a process to be followed to determine the appropriate course of action when previously unidentified volcanic features of potential significance are discovered during the planning and implementation of new development. This process is to include measures to ensure that the values of the feature are recorded using appropriate techniques.*
11. *To provide for transit oriented redevelopment (TOD) around the Panmure train station and the growth of Panmure, viewshafts W7 and W8 will be replaced by viewshafts to maintain and enhance the protection of views to Mt Wellington/Maungarei*

once planning for the redevelopment is complete. The design and planning process for Panmure TOD should take this method into account.

6.4.21 Reasons: Volcanic Features and Viewshafts

Policies 6.4.19 and Methods 6.4.20 address the management of volcanic features in the Auckland Region and in particular, Regionally Significant Volcanic Features. The Regionally Significant Volcanic Features are described in Appendix B. The volcanic cones are identified as being Outstanding Natural Features on Map Series 2a, as well as being in the group of Regionally Significant Volcanic Features. Method 3a requires that the ARC identifies, including through the use of maps, the extent of the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features that are described in Appendix B but not mapped on Map Series 2a or 3a. Further defining the extent of the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features described in Appendix B will provide greater certainty for future regional infrastructure projects and other development proposals.

Activities outside of the regionally Significant Volcanic Feature reserves have the potential to adversely affect the values of the features. While the most visually significant areas of the volcanic cones and their aprons are protected by the volcanic viewshafts in this RPS and by the inclusion of Height Sensitive Areas in the relevant district plans, activities adjacent to the cones and to other Regionally Significant Volcanic Features have the ability to adversely affect their heritage values. These include new development, which may inhibit access to the volcanic feature, or development that is of a scale or location that dominates the local landscape and reduces the visual significance or amenity values of the volcanic feature. In addition, some features may extend beyond the boundaries depicted in the district plan maps. Although these areas may be significantly modified or developed, they are nevertheless still part of the feature and may retain some significant elements of the values identified and may also be considered to have local significance. In these areas, district plan provisions must ensure that activities are managed or enhance any such significant residual values. Policy 6.4.19.2(iii) addresses the relationship between the Regionally Significant Volcanic Feature, other parts of the feature, and its wider environment.

It is possible that other features of geological significance, either associated with significant volcanic features, or

with the wider volcanic field, may be discovered only when development is proposed for a site – in particular there are likely to be several undiscovered lava caves in the region. In these circumstances, an approach that is different to that required for identified features of significance may be appropriate depending on the respective nature and significance of the feature and of the development. Such an approach may include regulatory and/or non-regulatory responses. Method 6.4.20.10 requires district plans to specify the process to be undertaken to determine the appropriate course of action, but establishes as a minimum that the nature and value of the feature must be recorded.

The volcanic features have a range of values that are identified in Issues 6.2.5 and 6.2.6. Further information on the values of many of these features is also contained in Appendix B of this RPS. Objective 6.3.7 and the Policies in 6.4.19. afford a high level of protection to the Regionally Significant Volcanic Features and in particular the volcanic cones, in recognition of their international, national and regional significance and their strong association with the character and identity of the Auckland Region. The Regionally Significant Volcanic Features are also finite resources that cannot be created elsewhere. Once lost or significantly modified, they cannot be restored or re-created. Hence the focus of the policy is on the protection of values and avoidance of the adverse effects of activities, such as buildings, structures and earthworks or land disturbance, that are physically or visually intrusive.

Smaller scale volcanic features such as lava caves and exposures are important for their geological and scientific values, and sometimes for their historical and recreational values. Retaining the existing range and diversity of features is important as part of the overall volcanic heritage of the Auckland Region.

Method 6.4.20.3 requires Territorial Authorities to protect locally significant volcanic features and locally significant views to and between the volcanic cones. In the management of volcanic soils, the provisions of Chapter 12, Soil Conservation are relevant. A number of the volcanic cones have areas in public ownership, held and managed under the Reserves Act 1977. However, privately owned land generally surrounds the cones and covers the wider volcanic apron. In some cases, privately owned land extends significant distances up the slopes of the actual cone (eg Mt Eden, Mt Albert, Mt Hobson

and Mt St John). Larger areas of the Region's explosion craters and tuff rings are in private ownership, although parts of these features are in public ownership.

The volcanic features are in public ownership they provide critical areas of open space within Auckland's urban area. Being public land there is also the expectation of free and full public access, where this access is consistent with the protection of the natural and physical environment of the volcanic feature. Policy 6.4.19.2 requires that the provision of public access to, and recreation on, the publicly owned Regionally Significant Volcanic Features be consistent with the protection of the values of the feature. Many of the volcanic cones have located on, or within them, existing water supply infrastructure, including reservoirs. The existing water supply infrastructure requires maintenance and on occasion, may require replacement. Policy 6.4.19.2 is not intended to prevent or unreasonably hinder the continued operation, maintenance or replacement of the existing water supply infrastructure. However, it is expected that, wherever possible, such works will be preferably within the 'footprint' of existing development or, where that is not possible, in areas of the feature that are already modified.

An integrated approach to the management of the Region's volcanic features is required to ensure that their values are identified and protected and their relationship with the surrounding area is maintained. This approach involves integration among agencies (eg. TAs, ARC, DoC and private trusts such as the Cornwall Park Trust Board and requiring authorities) and between legislation, particularly the Reserves Act 1977 and the Resource Management Act 1991. Policies 6.4.19.1 and 6.4.19.2 and Method 6.4.20.2 address this issue.

Volcanic features that may not be identified as regionally or locally significant may still, nevertheless, contribute cumulatively to the volcanic landscape character of the region. Local authorities may utilise mechanisms available to them in the appropriate management of these broader landscape values, in addition to identifying and protecting features of significance, as required by this ARPS. These include mechanisms available under other legislation, such as reserve management plans, Methods 6.4.20.1 and 2 address this broader range of management responses.

Historically, views to and the general visibility of the volcanic cones have been identified and protected in

regional and district plans. This protection continues in this RPS through Objective 6.3.8, Policies 6.4.19.3, 4 and 5 and Methods 6.4.20.1 and 3 to 9 and by the inclusion of the viewshafts in Map Series 4a. These viewshafts identify regionally significant views to the cones from public viewing locations in Auckland, Manukau and North Shore Cities and in the Coastal Marine Area. The viewshafts are also included in the relevant district plans and in the Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal. District plans also identify Height Sensitive Areas on or near the cones, or on intervening landforms, where these approach the floor of one or more viewshaft. Within these areas controls are placed on the height, location and size of buildings and other structures to maintain the general visibility of the volcanic cones within the urban landscape. Many of the viewshafts originate from lengths of the motorway network. To take account of the view or views seen from moving vehicles, these viewshafts do not have a single point of origin, but extend over a length of between 125 and 800 metres. This means that structures associated with the operation of the motorway such as lights, signage gantries and safety barriers may intrude in a transient manner into the viewshaft along the linear point of origin. Policies 6.4.19.4 and 5 and Methods 6.4.20.1 and 3 to 8 are not intended to hinder the erection of such structures in the viewshaft. However if there is flexibility in terms of motorway operational requirements to locate these structures outside the viewshafts, this option should be taken. Consideration should be given to the effects of new motorway development or significant redevelopment, involving major structures, such as on and off ramps, on the volcanic viewshafts and the options for avoiding, remedying or mitigating such adverse effects on them.

All the viewshafts have been, or will be, surveyed and their limits are described in three dimensional co-ordinates (relative to the Mt Eden Circuit, the National Mapping Grid and Mean Sea Level). This data is included in the relevant district plans and regional plans. This level of data makes it possible for persons owning land over which a viewshaft passes, to establish by means of survey methods, the height to which buildings or structures may be erected on that land, without penetrating the floor of the protected viewshaft.

The protected viewshafts originate at public areas and generally identify a view to a cone that is often along a major road, and in particular Auckland's urban motorway

system. Methods 6.4.20.7 and 8 recognise the need to control vegetation to maintain the viewshafts. Local public viewing points to the volcanic cones and their associated reserves are often available from adjacent roads. Hence ensuring that vegetation along these roads and in the reserves themselves do not compromise views to the cones is important.

While the viewshafts identified in this ARPS protect the most iconic and important views to the cones, Policy 6.4.19.3 identifies that other methods may also be required to maintain their overall contribution to the landscape character of the Auckland isthmus. In particular, the identification and protection of views between the cones, and of locally significant views to cones, as required by Method 6.4.20.4. The landscape values of the cones are also to be protected through the identification of height sensitive areas around the cones and on landforms where there is potential for development to intrude into identified viewshafts, as required by Method 6.4.20.5. The appropriate management of vegetation in transport corridors, as required by Methods 6.4.20.8 and 9 is also important for maintaining the contribution of the cones to overall landscape character and quality. District plans may also include other provisions such as zones and character overlays to maintain these landscape values.

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 significant natural landforms, natural processes and significant vegetation areas and patterns;**
- (iv) maintains the visual or physical qualities that make the landscape iconic, rare or scarce at the national, regional or district level;**

- (v) manages adverse effects on the components of the natural character of the coastal environment consistent with Policy 7.4.4;
 - (vi) 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;
 - (vii) recognises and provides for ongoing primary production, (excluding large scale factory farming) as part of a working landscape, particularly in outstanding natural landscapes where pastoral land dominates;
 - (viii) accommodates regionally significant infrastructure, where it meets the requirements of Policies 6.4.22.8 and 9;
 - (ix) 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;
 - (x) avoids adverse cumulative effects and is consistent with Policy 6.4.22.4.
 - (xi) supports the achievement of long term certainty in the management of Outstanding Natural Landscapes through regional or district plan provisions.
 - (xii) is consistent with the Strategic Objectives and the Strategic Policies for Urban Containment and Rural Areas and the associated methods of Chapter 2 of this RPS.
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.
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 .
4. In determining whether subdivision, use and development contributes to adverse cumulative 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;
 - (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;

5. Restoration and enhancement of degraded landscapes shall be encouraged through appropriate land management practices.

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

(i) the scale, and intensity of any subdivision is commensurate with achieving significant environmental benefits;

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

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

(iv) 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)

7.9. 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 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;

(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) 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;

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 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 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;

1. Subdivision, use and development of land and related natural and physical resources shall be controlled so that in areas identified in Map Series 2 and 3:

(i) the quality of outstanding landscapes (landscape rating 6 and 7) is protected by avoiding adverse effects on the character, aesthetic value and integrity of the landscape unit as a whole;

(ii) outstanding landscapes with a sensitivity rating of 6 or 7 are protected by avoiding subdivision, use and development which cannot be visually accommodated within the landscape without adversely affecting the character, aesthetic value and integrity of the landscape unit as a whole;

(iii) the quality of regionally significant landscapes (landscape rating 5) is protected by avoiding adverse effects on the elements, features and patterns which contribute to the quality of the landscape unit;

(iv) regionally significant landscapes with a sensitivity rating of 5 are protected by ensuring that any subdivision, use and development can be visually accommodated within the landscape without adversely affecting the elements, features and patterns which contribute to the quality of the landscape unit.

2. In those rural areas not rated as being outstanding or regionally significant landscapes and in urban

areas, the elements, features and patterns which contribute to the character and quality of the landscape and to its amenity value, or which help to accommodate the visual effects of subdivision, use and development, shall be protected by avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects on them.

3. Subject to Policy 6.4.19-1 above, subdivision, use and development on regionally significant ridgelines shall be controlled so that there are no significant adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on the landscape quality and integrity of the ridgelines.

4. The views of volcanic cones, which are indicated in Map Series 4, are to be preserved, and intrusion into the defined viewing shafts by buildings or structures shall be avoided.

5. The use or development of land and related natural and physical resources is to be controlled so that the visibility of volcanic cones is maintained or enhanced.

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.

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.)

3. Councils shall use suitable methods in its RMA plans 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);*
 - (ii) Controls on the earthworks including their scale and nature, and other land disturbing activities, that may adversely affect important landforms and landscape, and controls on mineral extraction activities where these are proposed within an Outstanding Natural Landscape;*
 - (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;*
 - (v) Criteria for the assessment of proposals involving the use and development of renewable energy resources or new mineral resources in Outstanding Natural Landscapes.*
 - (vi) 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.*
- 5. 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.*
- 1. Provision is to be made in district plans and relevant regional plans to give effect to Policies 6.4.19-1, 2 and 3.*
 - 2. Provision is to be made in district plans and relevant regional plans to control the location, size and height of buildings and structures in the height sensitive areas and in the viewing shafts indicated in Map Series 4, so as to give effect to Policies 6.4.19-4*

and 5:

- 3. The ARC will, after consultation with interested persons and organisations, prepare and publish guidelines on a standard methodology for the assessment and evaluation of landscape within the Region.*

6.4.241: Reasons: Landscape

Outstanding Natural Landscapes shown in Map Series 3a 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. 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 fences, stockyards, pump houses and barns.

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.

Objective 6.3.4 reflects the specific requirements of Section 6(b) of the RMA. Policy 6.4.22.1 provides guidance on what is appropriate subdivision, use and development in Outstanding Natural Landscapes, with

a key focus 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 (vii) and the operation of existing mineral extraction sites is provided for in Policy 6.4.22.1(ix). 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.

Other landscapes in the Auckland Region, including urban landscapes, are important for their high amenity values. 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 to identify and manage adverse effects of

subdivision, use and development on landscapes that are important to regional and local amenity values.

In rural, coastal and island areas, amenity landscape management should focus on maintaining the key elements, processes 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 Method 6.4.23.3 identifies a number of techniques that may be used to maintain landscape values.

Maintaining the natural qualities of Outstanding Natural Landscapes is also affected by 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.

Policies 6.4.22.1(x) and 6.4.22.4 require that the role of adverse cumulative effects in modifying landscape character be addressed in Outstanding Natural Landscapes. In many situations, an individual building or other structure 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 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 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 and the rural, 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(xii) 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 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.

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 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. 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.

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 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.

The Auckland Regional Planning Scheme, 1988 provided visual protection of a number of Auckland's volcanic cones. These policies are carried forward into the RPS. The listed cones are Takarunga (Mt Victoria); Maungawhau (Mt Eden), Te Kopuke (Mt St Johns); Owairaka (Mt Albert), Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill); Otahuhu (Mt Richmond), Maungauika (North Head), Remuwera (Mt Hobson), Maungarei (Mt Wellington), Koheraunui (Big King of the Three Kings), Puketapapa (Mt Roskill), and Mangere Mountain.

It is intended to review the details of the sight-lines protection through regional plan provisions or a plan change to the RPS. This review will be carried out in association with the TAs.

6.5 Environmental Results Anticipated

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

- (a) significant natural and cultural heritage resources will be preserved or protected;
- (b) loss and degradation of heritage resources will significantly diminish;
- (c) significant views of volcanic cones and landscapes

will be protected;

- (d) changes that occur within Outstanding Natural Landscapes will sustain the values associated with those areas.
- (e) the diverse range of valued landscapes will be maintained;
- (df) public access to heritage resources will be maintained where this does not create unacceptable adverse effects;
- (eg) the relationship of Tangata Whenua with their ancestral taonga will be recognised and provided for;
- (fh) some heritage resources will be enhanced and restored;
- (gi) public awareness of the issues and values associated with heritage resources will increase.

identified in Map Series 4 will be monitored and reported on at intervals of not less than six years.

6.6 Monitoring

The ARC in conjunction with TAs Councils will develop and maintain monitoring systems and databases to monitor cultural heritage, natural areas and their ecological processes by:

- (i) recording and collating the loss of heritage resources as a result of approved activities from the regional and district consent processes;
- (ii) monitoring the effectiveness of policies designed to preserve or protect heritage resources areas in district and regional plans;
- (iii) keeping regional totals, by heritage type, of the additions to the protected estate in order to assess whether a diverse and representative range of heritage resources is being preserved or protected;
- (iv) establishing, in conjunction with relevant agencies, a base line of the natural area coverage in the Region by the use of regular aerial photography;
- (v) monitoring trend and status conditions of key ecological processes and ecosystems;
- (vi) establishing relevant monitoring systems with Tangata Whenua;
- (vii) the state of ~~o~~ Outstanding and ~~regionally significant~~ Natural Landscapes will be surveyed and reported on in the State of the Environment report, at intervals of not less than 15 years;
- (viii) the visibility of, and views to, the volcanic cones