

Operative Ashburton District Plan

Takata Whenua Values

Objective 2.3

The recognition of the Maori World View (namely the interconnectedness of all aspects of the natural world, including people) in decision making and management of the District's natural and physical resources.

Rural Zone

Objective 3.2: Biodiversity

Protect, maintain and/or enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems by controlling and managing activities that have the potential to affect the life supporting capacity of soils, and water quality in the lakes, rivers and wetlands and significant nature conservation values.

Policy 3.2A

To protect, maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems, in particular areas of significant nature conservation values or land above the altitudinal land use line shown on the Planning Maps, by controlling vegetation clearance, the establishment of buildings, planting of trees, earthworks, and subdivision and development.

Policy 3.2F

Manage and encourage land uses on land adjoining lakes, rivers and wetlands to maintain or improve water quality and maintain and/or enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecological values.

Policy 3.3E

Maintain the dominance, visual and aesthetic coherence of Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers.

Objective 3.4: Natural Character

Preserve the natural character of the District's coastal environment, rivers, lakes, wetlands and their margins, and protect such areas from inappropriate subdivision, land use and development.

Policy 3.4A

Recognise that the following natural patterns, qualities, elements, features and processes contribute to natural character:

- *areas or water bodies in or close to their natural state;*
- *water flows, levels and quality;*
- *coastal or freshwater processes;*
- *landforms and landscapes;*
- *indigenous biodiversity.*

Policy 3.4B

Avoid modifications or development within the Rakaia and Rangitata River Valleys and the Hakatere Basin which are inconsistent with, or disrupt the patterns, textures, colours and contours associated with the fluvial processes of rivers, lakes and wetlands and their margins.

Policy 3.4C

Maintain and, where possible, enhance the naturalness, indigenous biodiversity and nature conservation values of lakes, rivers, wetlands and their margins with the restoration of contours and indigenous planting.

Policy 3.4I

Require the location, design and use of structures and facilities which:

- *pass across or through the surface of any water body; or*
- *are attached to the bank of a water body.*

To be assessed in relation to their effects on natural character.

Policy 3.4J

Require a comprehensive assessment of the effects of earthworks, vegetation removal, exotic planting and the erection of structures on naturalness, nature conservation and biodiversity values within areas of high natural character.

Objective 3.5: Rural Character and Amenity

To protect and maintain the character and amenity values of the District's rural areas, considering its productive uses whilst providing for non-rural activities that meet the needs of local and regional communities and the nation.

Policy 3.5B

Provide for the establishment of non-rural activities in the rural areas, whilst managing any potential adverse effects on the character and amenity of the rural environment and rural productive activities.

Objective 3.6: Extractive Activities

Provide for and manage the effects of extractive activities, including earthworks whilst protecting the amenity values of the rural environment and rural resources.

Policy 3.6D

Control earthworks, including mineral extraction within the District to ensure minimal adverse effects on amenity values and land stability, whilst protecting important geoconservation sites, outstanding natural landscapes, riparian areas and areas of significant nature conservation value.

Objective 3.7: Natural Hazards in Rural Areas

Minimise loss of life or serious injury, damage to assets or infrastructure, or disruption to the community from natural hazards.

Utilities, Energy and Designations

Objective 14.1: Effects from Utilities on Amenity and the Environment

To provide for the construction, installation, operation, upgrading and maintenance of utilities where adverse effects on amenity and the surrounding environment can be appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Policy 14.1A

To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects arising from the construction, installation, operation, upgrading and maintenance of utilities.

Policy 14.1C

Ensure the health and safety of the community is protected when utilities are constructed and utilised.

Policy 14.1D

Consider the locational, economic, operational and technical requirements of utilities in assessing their location, design and appearance, and their importance to the economic functioning of the District, Region and/or Nation.

Policy 14.1E

To encourage utility operators to adopt their own monitoring systems to ensure that the effects of utilities and their operation are regularly evaluated to avoid, remedy or mitigate the occurrence of adverse effects.

Objective 14.5: Rural Water

The ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of rural irrigation and stock water systems.

Policy 14.5A

To recognise and provide for the continuing efficient use and development of irrigation (including associated water storage facilities) and stock water systems, and various water reticulation systems in the District, including recognition of their importance to the wellbeing of the District's people and wider communities.