

This entire chapter has been notified using the RMA Part One, Schedule 1 process (**P1 Sch1**). Text shown in **red** (both underlined and ~~struck-out~~) represents all changes recommended by the Panel from the notified Plan provisions.

APP15 – Ngā Aromatawai Hauropi

APP15 – Ecological Assessment

1. A resource consent must include a report that:
 - a. is prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist and as required, any other person with suitable expertise, such as someone with expertise in mātauranga Māori; and
 - b. comply with clause (2); and
 - c. be commensurate with the scale and significance (to indigenous biodiversity) of the proposal.
2. The report must:
 - a. include a description of the existing ecological features and values of the site; and
 - b. include a description of the adverse effects of the proposal on indigenous biodiversity and how those effects will be managed; and
 - c. identify any effects on identified taonga; and
 - d. identify the ecosystem services associated with indigenous biodiversity at the site; and
 - e. include an assessment of the ecological integrity and connectivity within and beyond the site; and
 - f. include mātauranga Māori and tikanga Māori assessment methodology, where relevant; and
 - g. if biodiversity offsetting is proposed, set out:
 - i. a detailed plan of what is proposed, including a quantified loss and gain calculation, the currency used in the calculation, and the data that informs the calculation and plan; and
 - ii. a description of how the relevant principles in Appendix 2- Biodiversity Offsetting have been addressed; and
 - iii. an assessment of the likely success of the plan in achieving a net gain in biodiversity values; and
 - h. if biodiversity compensation is proposed, set out:
 - i. a detailed plan of what is proposed; and
 - ii. a description of how the relevant principles in Appendix 3 – Biodiversity Compensation have been addressed; and
 - iii. an assessment of the likely success of the plan in achieving its outcomes.

Note: Clause 3.19 of the NPS-IB requires that the Council work with tangata whenua to determine the indigenous species, populations, and ecosystems in that rohe that are taonga (and these are **acknowledged taonga**). Further if tangata whenua agree, the Council must identify acknowledged taonga in the District Plan (these are **identified taonga**).

At present clause 3.19 has not been implemented and the district plan does not identify any taonga species. This work is to take place in a future 'Te Ao Māori Plan Change', scheduled for public notification in 2026.

~~For the purposes of preparing an ecological assessment for a resource consent application required for an activity within an SNA:~~

~~The following sets out the principles for preparing an ecological assessment that will determine the indigenous biodiversity values and the impact of the activity on those values through the application of the effects management hierarchy in ECO-P2:~~

~~The ecological assessment is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and to include the following as a minimum:~~

- ~~1. Map and quantify the indigenous habitats on the site;~~
- ~~2. Determine the extent to which the proposal has applied the effects management hierarchy to avoid adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values, then minimise and then remedy to arrive at the net residual effect (or net benefit if that is the case). This will include consideration of the following (but not limited to):~~
 - ~~a. The extent to which fragmentation of the Significant Natural Area occurs and, if so, how it is proposed to minimise the extent; and~~
 - ~~b. The extent to which the trimming or removal of indigenous vegetation avoids the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the Significant Natural Area; and~~
- ~~3. How any residual adverse effects are proposed to be addressed through Biodiversity Offsetting (APP2);~~
- ~~4. How any residual adverse effects that cannot be offset are proposed to be addressed via Biodiversity Compensation (APP3), if deemed appropriate; and~~
- ~~5. Overall conclusion on whether the activity can be supported following the approach to addressing the indigenous biodiversity values on the site.~~