

This entire chapter has been notified using the RMA Part One, Schedule 1 process ([P1 Sch1](#)).

This chapter has been amended to incorporate the adopted motions (10 & 10b) of the Wellington City Council Planning & Environment Committee on 23 June 2022. In approving the plan for notification the committee members agreed an amendment to remove SNAs from all residential zoned properties.

This chapter contains provisions that have legal effect. They are identified with a



next to the provision. To see more about what legal effect means please click [here](#).

# Ngā Pūnaha Rauropi me te Kanorau Koiora Taketake

## Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

ECO	Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity
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### Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to ~~identify significant natural areas within Wellington City in order to protect and maintain the remaining areas of indigenous biodiversity~~ fulfil the Council's requirements under the [National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 \(NPS-IB\)](#) and [New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 \(NZCPS\)](#) as [relevant to indigenous biodiversity](#).

~~Historic urban and rural land use activities have contributed to the continuing decline of indigenous biodiversity over time. The effects not only reduce native biodiversity but result in soil loss through increased erosion and sedimentation loss to streams, rivers, lakes and harbours adversely impacting on water quality and habitats of those areas.~~

This chapter [fulfils these requirements by](#) identifying areas of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values as [significant natural areas](#) ("SNAs"). ~~These are district wide overlays which apply within all zones except residential zoned land, in accordance with the adopted amendment by the Wellington City Council Planning and Environment Committee on 23 June 2022.~~ The method of identifying SNAs is consistent with the criteria [of the NPS-IB](#), within Policy 23 of the [Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement](#). [It also includes controls to manage the loss of indigenous biodiversity outside of SNAs.](#)

~~Historic urban and rural land use activities have contributed to the continuing decline of indigenous biodiversity over time. The effects not only reduce native biodiversity but result in soil loss through increased erosion and sedimentation loss to streams, rivers, lakes and harbours adversely impacting on water quality and habitats of those areas.~~

The objectives, policies and rules manage the effects of activities on the indigenous biodiversity values within the City [and are guided by the NPS-IB and NZCPS. In respect of SNAs](#) the rules recognise some activities can occur with limited impacts ~~on the value of SNAs~~ and are provided for as permitted activities. Other activities could result in a greater level of effect, and such activities will require a resource consent. This is to enable an assessment of the activity and effects against the SNA values.

~~The chapter also includes controls to manage the loss of indigenous biodiversity outside of SNAs across the city by allowing a contiguous area of indigenous vegetation to be cleared after which a resource consent is required.~~

~~There are also additional~~ [For allowances provisions related to](#) the removal of vegetation in a SNA relating to [Infrastructure](#) and the [National Grid](#) refer to the INF-ECO and INF-NG subchapters, ~~and also for the removal of branches near power lines in accordance with Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.~~ Other activities could result in a greater level of effect, and such activities will require a resource consent. This is to enable an assessment of the activity and effects against the SNA values.

~~The effects management hierarchy forms a central approach to assessing effects of activities on identified SNA values. This comprises a sequence of steps prioritising the approach to avoid, minimise and remedy the effect on identified values before considering biodiversity offsetting and lastly biodiversity compensation, which is the least preferred option and may only be considered after demonstrating how the preceding steps have been addressed. The principles guiding what constitutes offsetting or compensation are included as appendices to this chapter (see APP2 – Biodiversity Offsetting and APP3 – Biodiversity Compensation). The overall intent of this sequential approach is to maintain and, where appropriate, restore indigenous biodiversity values while still providing for some subdivision, use and development. Where offsetting is required the overall outcome should be no net loss and preferably a net gain in biodiversity values.~~

The SNAs that are covered by this chapter are contained in SCHED8 – Significant Natural Areas.

The provisions of this chapter do not apply to work or activity of the Crown within the boundaries of any area of land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act.

### Other relevant District Plan provisions

It is important to note that in addition to the provisions in this chapter, a number of other Part 2: District-Wide chapters also contain provisions that may be relevant for your activity including:

- **Subdivision** – Policies and rules relating to subdivision within significant natural areas are located within the Subdivision chapter.
- **Earthworks** – Policies and rules relating to earthworks within significant natural areas are located within the Earthworks chapter.
- **Infrastructure** – Policies and rules relating to activities associated with the development, maintenance, upgrading and operation of the national grid, regionally significant infrastructure and network utilities located within significant natural areas are addressed within the Infrastructure chapter.
- **Signs** - Signs within a significant natural areas are addressed by the Signs Chapter.
- **Renewable Electricity Generation** – Policies and rules associated with the development, maintenance, upgrading and operation of renewable electricity generation activities located within significant natural areas are addressed within the Renewable Electricity Generation chapter.

Resource consent may therefore be required under rules in this chapter as well as other chapters. Unless specifically stated in a rule or in this chapter, resource consent is required under each relevant rule. The steps to determine the status of an activity are set out in the General Approach chapter.

### Objectives


<b><u>ECO-01</u></b>	<u>Indigenous biodiversity is maintained so that there is at least no overall loss in Wellington City.</u>
<b><u>ECO-02</u></b>	<u>The maintenance of indigenous biodiversity outside of significant natural areas recognises the need to create a well-functioning urban environment.</u>
<b><u>ECO-013</u></b>	Significant <del>N</del> natural <del>A</del> areas are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development and where appropriate, restored.
<b><u>ECO-02</u></b>	<del>Significant Natural Areas within the coastal environment are protected.</del>
<b><u>ECO-034</u></b>	Significant <del>N</del> natural <del>A</del> areas are protected from the adverse effects of plantation forestry activities.
<b><u>ECO-045</u></b>	Significant <del>N</del> natural <del>A</del> areas are maintained or restored by mana whenua in accordance with kaitiakitanga.

### Policies

<b><u>ECO-P1</u></b>	<b><u>Identification of significant natural areas</u></b> <u>Identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the Wellington district and schedule these areas as significant natural areas.</u>
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<b><u>ECO-P2</u></b>	<p><b><u>Precautionary approach</u></b></p> <p><u>Require that a precautionary approach be applied where the effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood, but those effects could cause significant or irreversible damage to indigenous biodiversity.</u></p>
<b><u>ECO-P3</u></b>	<p><b><u>Avoiding adverse effects on significant natural areas</u></b></p> <p><u>Avoid the following adverse effects of new use or development on significant natural areas, unless the activity is provided for under ECO-P4:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. Loss of ecosystem representation and extent;</u></li> <li><u>2. Disruption to sequences, mosaics, or ecosystem function;</u></li> <li><u>3. Fragmentation of SNAs or the loss of buffers or connections within an SNA;</u></li> <li><u>4. A reduction in the function of the SNA as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems; and</u></li> <li><u>5. A reduction in the population size or occupancy of Threatened or At Risk (declining) species that use an SNA for any part of their life cycle.</u></li> </ol>
<b><u>ECO-P4</u></b>	<p><b><u>Specific activities to use effects management hierarchy</u></b></p> <p><u>Manage the adverse effects of the following forms of new use and development on significant natural areas in accordance with the effects management hierarchy at ECO-P5:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. Mineral extraction that provides significant national public benefit or aggregate extraction that provides significant national or regional public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand; and</u></li> <li><u>2. New use or development that has a functional or operational need to be in that particular location and where there are no practicable alternative locations for the new use or development; or</u></li> <li><u>3. The construction of a single household unit on a vacant allotment that was created prior to 7 July 2023 and where there is no practicable location within the allotment where the residential unit can be constructed in a manner that avoids the adverse effects specified in ECO-P3; or</u></li> <li><u>4. New use or development is for the purpose of maintaining or restoring a significant natural area that does not involve the permanent destruction of the significant natural area.</u></li> </ol>
<b><u>ECO-P5</u></b>	<p><b><u>Effects management hierarchy</u></b></p> <p><u>Manage any adverse effects of use and development on SNAs that are not referred to in ECO-P3 or that are specified activities in ECO-P4 by applying the effects management hierarchy as follows:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. Adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then</u></li> <li><u>2. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then</u></li> <li><u>3. Where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then</u></li> <li><u>4. Where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided in accordance with APP2 – Biodiversity Offsetting where possible ; then</u></li> <li><u>5. Where biodiversity offsetting of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, biodiversity compensation is provided in accordance with APP3 – Biodiversity Compensation</u></li> </ol>

<p><b>ECO-P1</b></p>	<p><u>then</u></p> <p><u>6. If biodiversity compensation is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided.</u></p> <p><b>Protection of significant natural areas</b></p> <p>Protect the biodiversity values of the identified significant natural areas within <u>SCHED8</u> by requiring <u>subdivision, use and development</u> to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>1. Avoid adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values where practicable;</del></li> <li><del>2. Minimise adverse effects on the biodiversity values where avoidance is not practicable;</del></li> <li><del>3. Remedy adverse effects on the biodiversity values where they cannot be avoided or minimised;</del></li> <li><del>4. Only consider biodiversity offsetting for any residual adverse effects that cannot otherwise be avoided, minimised or remedied and where the principles of APP2—Biodiversity Offsetting are met; and</del></li> <li><del>5. Only consider biodiversity compensation after first considering biodiversity offsetting and where the principles of APP3—Biodiversity Compensation are met.</del></li> </ol>
<p><b>ECO-P3</b></p>	<p><b>Subdivision, use and development in significant natural areas</b></p> <p>- Allow for subdivision, use and development in significant natural areas listed in <u>SCHED8</u> where it: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>1. Applies the effects management hierarchy approach in ECO-P2; and</del></li> <li><del>2. Demonstrates that it is appropriate by taking into account the findings of an ecological assessment for the activity in accordance with APP15; and</del></li> <li><del>3. Ensures the activities effects on biodiversity values are appropriately managed in accordance with the effects management hierarchy to achieve no net loss of biodiversity values of the identified significant natural area; and</del></li> <li><del>4. Ensures that the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area are maintained.</del></li> </ol>
<p><b>ECO-P56</b></p>	<p><b>Significant natural areas within the coastal environment</b></p> <p>Only allow activities within significant natural area <del>within SCHED8</del> in the coastal environment where it can be demonstrated that they;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avoid adverse effects on the matters in Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010;</li> <li>2. Avoid significant adverse effects <del>and avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects</del> of activities on the matters in Policy 11(b) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010; and</li> <li>3. <u>Manage other adverse effects accordance with the effects management hierarchy at ECO-P5:</u></li> </ol> <p><del>Protects the indigenous biodiversity values in accordance with ECO-P2.</del></p>
<p><b>ECO-P2</b> <b>ECO-P7</b></p>	<p><b>Appropriate <u>trimming, pruning</u> or vegetation removal in significant natural areas</b></p> <p>Enable vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or</u> removal within significant natural areas <del>identified within</del></p>


	<p><b>SCHED8</b> where it is of a scale and nature that maintains the biodiversity values, <b>including</b> to provide for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintenance around existing buildings; or</li> <li>2. Safe operation of <b>lawfully established</b> roads or rail corridors, tracks and access ways; or</li> <li>3. Restoration and conservation activities including plant and animal pest control activities; or</li> <li>4. Natural hazard management activities; or</li> <li>5. Reduction of wildfire risk through the removal of highly flammable vegetation near existing residential units on rural property; or</li> <li>6. <del>Opportunities to enable</del> <b>t</b>angata whenua to exercise customary harvesting practices (excluding commercial use); <b>or</b></li> <li>7. <b><u>The continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction.</u></b></li> </ol>
<b><u>ECO-P8</u></b>	<p><b><u>Maintaining indigenous biodiversity outside of significant natural areas</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Manage any adverse effects of new use and development on indigenous biodiversity outside of significant natural areas by:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Applying the effects management hierarchy at ECO-P5 where there are significant adverse effects; and</u></b></li> <li>2. <b><u>Minimising other adverse effects.</u></b></li> </ol>
<b><u>ECO-P49</u></b>	<p><b>Protection and restoration initiatives</b></p> <p>Encourage the protection, restoration and maintenance of indigenous biodiversity by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing for mana whenua to exercise their responsibilities as kaitiaki to protect, restore and maintain areas of indigenous biodiversity; and</li> <li>2. Providing for the Karori Sanctuary Trust to exercise their strategy to protect and restore the Zealandia sanctuary in accordance with their long term strategy; and</li> <li>3. Supporting initiatives by landowners, community groups and others to protect, restore and maintain areas of indigenous vegetation.</li> </ol>
<b><u>ECO-P610</u></b>	<p><b>New plantation forestry</b></p> <p>Avoid the establishment of new plantation forestry within <b>identified</b> significant natural areas.</p>
<b><u>ECO-P711</u></b>	<p><b>Existing plantation forestry</b></p> <p>Provide for existing plantation forestry and associated activities where these maintain or restore the <b>identified</b> biodiversity values of significant natural areas.</p>
<b>Rules: Land use activities</b>	
<b><u>ECO-R1</u></b> 	<b>Trimming, pruning or removal of vegetation within a significant natural area</b>
All zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Activity Status: <b>Permitted</b></li> </ol> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The trimming, pruning or removal of vegetation is to:</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ensure the operation of any <u>lawfully established</u> formed public road or rail corridor, private access leg, driveway or right of way where removal of vegetation is limited to within the formed width of the road, rail corridor or access; or</li> <li>ii. Enable flood protection or natural hazard control where undertaken by a Regional or Territorial Authority or agents on their behalf as part of natural hazard mitigation works; or</li> <li>iii. Comply with section 43 or 64 of the Fire and Emergency Act 2017; or</li> <li>iv. Enable tangata whenua to exercise Customary Harvesting (hauhake); or</li> <li>v. Address an imminent threat to people or property represented by deadwood, diseased or dying vegetation and ECO-S1 is complied with; or</li> <li>vi. Enable the ongoing restoration work within the Zealandia sanctuary where undertaken by the Karori Sanctuary Trust; or</li> <li>vii. <del>To e</del>Enable the maintenance of public walking or cycling tracks and parks maintenance and repair undertaken by the <del>Department of Conservation, a Regional or Territorial Authority Greater Wellington Regional Council or Wellington City Council</del>, or their approved contractors, and <del>in accordance with where ECO-S2 is complied with; or-</del></li> <li>viii. <u>Trim, prune or remove a pest plant; or</u></li> <li>ix. <u>Enable restoration and maintenance of a significant natural area under ECO-R3; or</u></li> <li>x. <u>Enable maintenance and repair of existing buildings or structures and ECO-S2 is complied with.</u></li> </ul>
<p>General Rural Zone</p> <p>Open Space and Recreation Zones</p>	<p>2. Activity status: <b>Permitted</b></p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The trimming or removal of vegetation is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <del>Construct new perimeter fences for stock or pest animal exclusion from areas or m</del><u>Maintenance</u> of existing fences provided the trimming, <u>pruning</u> or removal of any vegetation does not exceed 2m in width; or</li> <li>ii. Maintain an existing farm drain, septic tank disposal field, or constructed stormwater management or treatment device; or</li> <li>iii. To create a firebreak within 10m of an external wall or roof of a residential unit that existed at 18 July 2022; or</li> <li>iv. Maintain, <del>or</del> upgrade <del>or create a new</del> <u>an</u> access track for agricultural, pastoral or horticultural activities <del>in accordance with where</del> ECO-S3 <u>is complied with.</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<u>Quarry Zone</u>	<p>3. <u>Activity status: Permitted</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>The trimming or removal of vegetation is to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>Enable the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction and ECO-S2 is complied with.</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
- All Zones	<p><del>3. Activity status: <b>Controlled</b></del></p> <p><del>Where:</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>a. The trimming or removal for the upgrade or creation of a new public walking or cycling track and any ancillary structures undertaken by the Department of Conservation, a Regional or Territorial Authority, or their approved contractor and in accordance with ECO-S4; or</del></li> <li><del>b. Compliance with ECO-R1.1.a.vii. cannot be achieved.</del></li> </ul> <p>-</p>

		<p><u>Section 88 RMA information requirements for applications:</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>Applications for activities within an identified significant natural area must provide, in addition to the standard information requirements, an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15:</p> <p>-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identifying the indigenous biodiversity values and potential impacts from the proposal; and</li> <li>2. Demonstrating that effects management hierarchy at ECO-P2 has been applied.</li> </ol>
- All Zones		<p>4. Activity status: <b>Restricted Discretionary</b></p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Compliance with any of the requirements of ECO-R1.1 cannot be achieved; and</li> <li>b. The significant natural area does not contain any matters identified in Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 where located within the coastal environment.</li> </ol> <p>-</p> <p>Matters of discretion are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The matters in ECO-P2, ECO-P3 and ECO-P4; and</li> <li>2. The extent and effect of non-compliance with any relevant standard not met as specified in the associated assessment criteria for the infringed standard.</li> </ol> <p>-</p> <p><u>Section 88 RMA information requirements for applications:</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>Applications for activities within an identified significant natural area must provide, in addition to the standard information requirements, an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15:</p> <p>-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identifying the indigenous biodiversity values and potential impacts from the proposal; and</li> <li>2. Demonstrating that effects management hierarchy at ECO-P2 has been applied.</li> </ol>
- General Rural Zone		<p>5. Activity Status: <b>Restricted Discretionary</b></p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Compliance with any of the requirements of ECO-R1.2 cannot be achieved; and</li> <li>b. The significant natural area does not contain any matters identified in Policy 11(a) of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 where located within the Coastal Environment.</li> </ol> <p>-</p> <p>Matters of discretion are:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The matters in ECO-P2, ECO-P3 and ECO-P4; and</li> <li>2. The extent and effect of non-compliance with any relevant standard not met as specified in the associated assessment criteria for the infringed standard.</li> </ol> <p>-</p> <p><u>Section 88 information requirements for applications:</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>Applications for activities within an identified significant natural area must provide, in addition to the standard information requirements, an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15:</p> <p>-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identifying the indigenous biodiversity values and potential impacts from the proposal; and</li> <li>2. Demonstrating that effects management hierarchy at ECO-P2 has been applied.</li> </ol>
All Zones		<p>6. Activity status: <b>Non-Complying</b></p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Compliance with the requirements of ECO-R1.1 or ECO-R1.2 or ECO-R1.4 cannot be achieved; and</li> <li>b. The significant natural area includes matters identified in Policy 11(a) of the New</li> </ol>

	<p><del>Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 where located within the Coastal Environment.</del></p> <p><del>-</del></p> <p><del><u>Section 88 information requirements for applications:</u></del></p> <p><del>-</del></p> <p><del>Applications for activities within an identified significant natural area must provide, in addition to the standard information requirements, an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15:-</del></p> <p><del>1. Identifying the indigenous biodiversity values and potential impacts from the proposal; and</del></p> <p><del>2. Demonstrating that effects management hierarchy at ECO-P2 has been applied.</del></p>
All zones	<p><del>4. Activity status: <b>Discretionary</b></del></p> <p><del>Where:</del></p> <p><del>a. Compliance with the requirements of ECO-R1.1, ECO-R1.2 or ECO-R1.3 is not achieved.</del></p> <p><del><u>Section 88 information requirements for applications:</u></del></p> <p><del><u>Applications for a resource consent under this rule must contain an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15 – Ecological Assessment.</u></del></p>
<b>ECO-R2</b> 	<b>Removal of non-indigenous vegetation within a significant natural area</b>
<del>-</del> All Zones	<p><del>1. Activity Status: <b>Permitted</b></del></p> <p><del>Where:</del></p> <p><del>a. The vegetation is a pest plant, and;</del></p> <p><del>b. Not otherwise permitted by ECO-R3.</del></p>
<del>-</del> All Zones	<p><del>2. Activity Status: <b>Restricted Discretionary</b></del></p> <p><del>Where:</del></p> <p><del>a. Compliance is not achieved with ECO-R2.1</del></p> <p><del>-</del></p> <p><del>Matters of discretion are:</del></p> <p><del>1. The matters in ECO-P2 and ECO-P4.</del></p> <p><del>-</del></p> <p><del><u>Section 88 information requirements for applications:</u></del></p> <p><del>-</del></p> <p><del>Applications for activities within an identified significant natural area must provide, in addition to the standard information requirements, an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15</del></p> <p><del>1. Identifying the indigenous biodiversity values and potential impacts from the proposal; and</del></p> <p><del>2. Demonstrating that effects management hierarchy at ECO-P2 has been applied.</del></p>
<b>ECO-R32</b> 	<b>Restoration and maintenance of a significant natural area</b>
All Zones	<p>1. Activity Status: <b>Permitted</b></p> <p>Where:</p> <p>a. The works are for the purpose of restoring or maintaining <del>the identified values of</del> a significant natural area by;</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Planting eco-sourced local indigenous vegetation or;</li> <li>ii. Carrying out pest animal or pest plant control activities; or</li> <li>iii. Carrying out activities in accordance with a registered protective covenant under the Conservation Act 1987 or Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977; or</li> <li>iv. Carrying out activities in accordance with a reserve management plan approved under the Reserves Act 1977; or</li> <li>v. Mana whenua in accordance with the principle of kaitiakitanga–<del>or</del></li> <li>vi. <u>Carrying out ongoing restoration work within the Zealandia sanctuary where undertaken by the Karori Sanctuary Trust.</u></li> </ul>
All Zones	<p>2. Activity status: <b>Restricted-Discretionary</b></p> <p>Where:</p> <p>a. Compliance with the requirements of ECO-R3.1 <del>cannot be</del> <u>is not</u> achieved</p> <p><del>Matters of discretion are:</del></p> <p><del>1. The matters in ECO-P2 and ECO-P4</del></p> <p><u>Section 88 information requirements for applications:</u></p> <p><del>Applications for activities within an identified significant natural area must provide, in addition to the standard information requirements, a resource consent under this rule must contain an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15 – Ecological Assessment.:</del></p> <p><del>1. Identifying the indigenous biodiversity values and potential impacts from the proposal; and</del>  <del>2. Demonstrating that effects management hierarchy at ECO-P2 has been applied.</del></p>
<b>ECO-R43</b> 	<b>New plantation forestry within a significant natural area</b>
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: <b>Non-Complying</b></p> <p><u>Section 88 information requirements for applications:</u></p> <p><u>Applications for a resource consent under this rule must contain an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15 – Ecological Assessment.</u></p>
<b>ECO-R4</b>	<b><u>Trimming, pruning or removal of indigenous vegetation outside of a significant natural area (except that falling under CE-R6)</u></b>
<u>General Rural Zone</u>  <u>Open Space and Recreation zones</u>  <u>Wellington Town Belt Zone</u>	<p>1. <u>Activity Status: Permitted</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p>a. <u>The indigenous vegetation existed as at [date of council decision]; and</u></p> <p>b. <u>Trimming, pruning or removal of a contiguous area of indigenous vegetation on a site does not exceed 3000m<sup>2</sup>; or</u></p> <p>c. <u>The removal does not involve any tree with a trunk diameter exceeding that in Schedule 9 as measured 1.4m above ground; or</u></p> <p>d. <u>The trimming, pruning or removal is to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>Undertake restoration; or</u></li> <li>ii. <u>Ensure the operation of any lawfully established formed public road or rail corridor, private access leg, driveway or right of way where removal of vegetation</u></li> </ul>

	<p><u>is limited to within the formed width of the road, rail corridor or access; or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. <u>Enable flood protection or natural hazard control where undertaken by a Greater Wellington Regional Council or Wellington City Council or agents on their behalf as part of natural hazard mitigation works; or</u></li> <li>iv. <u>Comply with section 43 or 64 of the Fire and Emergency Act 2017; or</u></li> <li>v. <u>Enable tangata whenua to exercise Customary Harvesting (hauhake); or</u></li> <li>vi. <u>Address an imminent threat to people or property represented by deadwood, diseased or dying vegetation (including for fire safety); or</u></li> <li>vii. <u>To enable the maintenance of public walking or cycling tracks and parks maintenance and repair undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council or Wellington City Council, or their approved contractors; or</u></li> <li>viii. <u>Maintenance of existing buildings, structures or fences; or</u></li> <li>ix. <u>Maintain an existing farm drain, septic tank disposal field, or constructed stormwater management or treatment device; or</u></li> <li>x. <u>To create a firebreak within 10m of an external wall or roof of a residential unit that existed at 18 July 2022; or</u></li> <li>xi. <u>Maintain an access track for agricultural, pastoral or horticultural activities.</u></li> </ul>
<p><u>All other Zones</u></p>	<p>2. <u>Activity Status: Permitted</u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>The indigenous vegetation existed as at [date of council decision]; and</u></li> <li>b. <u>A tree is being trimmed, pruned or removed; or</u></li> <li>c. <u>The trimming, pruning or removal of a contiguous area of indigenous vegetation on a site (including trees otherwise permitted to be removed under ECO-R5.2.b) does not exceed 100m<sup>2</sup>; or</u></li> <li>d. <u>The trimming, pruning or removal of indigenous vegetation is to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>Ensure the operation of any lawfully established formed public road or rail corridor, private access leg, driveway or right of way where removal of vegetation is limited to within the formed width of the road, rail corridor or access; or</u></li> <li>ii. <u>Comply with section 43 or 64 of the Fire and Emergency Act 2017; or</u></li> <li>iii. <u>Enable tangata whenua to exercise Customary Harvesting (hauhake); or</u></li> <li>iv. <u>Address an imminent threat to people or property represented by deadwood, diseased or dying vegetation (including for fire safety); or</u></li> <li>v. <u>To enable the maintenance of public walking or cycling tracks and parks maintenance and repair undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council or</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p><u>Wellington City Council, or their approved contractors; or</u></p> <p>vi. <u>Enable the maintenance of existing buildings, structures or fences; or</u></p> <p>vii. <u>Enable the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction.</u></p>	
<u>All zones</u>	<p>3. <u>Activity Status: <b>Restricted Discretionary</b></u></p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p>a. <u>Compliance with the requirements of ECO-R4.1 or ECO-R4.2. is not achieved.</u></p> <p><u>Matters of discretion are:</u></p> <p>1. <u>ECO-P2, ECO-P5 and ECO-P8</u></p> <p><u>Section 88 information requirements for applications:</u></p> <p><u>Applications for a resource consent under this rule must contain an ecological assessment in accordance with APP15 – Ecological Assessment.</u></p> <p><u>Notification status:</u></p> <p><u>An application for resource consent made in respect of this rule is precluded from being either publicly or limited notified.</u></p>	
Standards		
ECO-S1	Trimming, pruning or removal where there is the imminent threat to the safety of people or property	
All Zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The works are essential due to imminent threat to the safety of people or property and Council is advised of this threat as soon as practicable;</li> <li>All trimming or pruning must be undertaken to a growth point or branch union; and</li> <li>Any removal is undertaken or supervised by a suitably qualified arboricultural expert.</li> </ol>	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent to which the trimming, <u>pruning</u> or removal of <u>indigenous</u> vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and</li> <li>The effect of <del>the</del> vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or</u> removal on <del>the identified</del> biodiversity values.</li> </ol>
ECO-S2	Vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or</u> removal associated with:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>maintenance or repair of public walking and cycling tracks including parks maintenance and repair</b></li> <li><b><u>the continued operation and maintenance of quarries for aggregate extraction</u></b></li> <li><b><u>maintenance and repair of existing buildings and structures</u></b></li> </ul>	
All Zones	<p>Vegetation <u>trimming, pruning or</u> removal must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not be greater than 2.5m in width <del>to</del></li> </ol>	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p>

	<p><del>accommodate the track</del>; and</p> <p>2. Not involve removal of any tree with a trunk diameter exceeding that in Schedule 9 as measured 1.4m above ground.</p>	<p>1. The extent to which the trimming, <del>pruning</del> or removal of <del>indigenous</del> vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and</p> <p>2. The effect of <del>the</del> vegetation <del>trimming, pruning or</del> removal on <del>the identified</del> biodiversity values.</p>
<b>ECO-S3</b>	<b>Vegetation <del>trimming, pruning or</del> removal associated with farm access tracks</b>	
General Rural Zone	<p>Vegetation removal must:</p> <p>1. Be no greater than 5.0m in width to accommodate the access track; and</p> <p>2. Not involve removal of any tree with a trunk diameter exceeding that in Schedule 9 as measured 1.4m above ground; and</p> <p>3. Be solely for the purpose of providing farm vehicle access directly related to farming and primary production activities.</p>	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p> <p>1. The extent to which the trimming, <del>pruning</del> or removal of <del>indigenous</del> vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and</p> <p>2. The effect of <del>the</del> vegetation <del>trimming, pruning or</del> removal on <del>the identified</del> biodiversity values..</p>
<b>ECO-S4</b>	<b>Vegetation removal associated with upgrading of existing and creation of new public walking and cycling tracks and associated buildings and structures</b>	
-	<p>Vegetation removal must:</p> <p><del>1. Not be greater than 2.5m in width to accommodate the track and associated track structures; and</del></p> <p><del>2. Not be greater than 5m<sup>2</sup> in area to accommodate any ancillary buildings or structures.</del></p>	<p>Assessment criteria where the standard is infringed:</p> <p><del>1. The extent to which the trimming or removal of indigenous vegetation limits the loss, damage or disruption to the ecological processes, functions and integrity of the significant natural area; and</del></p> <p><del>2. The effect of the vegetation removal on the identified biodiversity values.</del></p>

### Methods

<u>ECO-M1</u>	<p>The Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with <u>mana whenua and in collaboration with landowners, communities, and other stakeholders to prioritise the following areas for restoration:</u></p> <p><u>(a) SNAs whose ecological integrity is degraded;</u></p> <p><u>(b) threatened and rare ecosystems representative of naturally occurring and formerly present ecosystems;</u></p> <p><u>(c) areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions;</u></p> <p><u>(d) natural inland wetlands whose ecological integrity is degraded or that no longer retain their indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna;</u></p> <p><u>(e) areas of indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land where restoration is advanced by the Māori landowners; and</u></p> <p><u>(f) any other priorities specified in regional biodiversity strategies or any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity restoration.</u></p>
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	<p><u>This work will identify opportunities to promote the resilience of indigenous biodiversity to climate change.</u></p>
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