



2.8. RURAL AREA

Wellington's Rural Area extends from the outer boundaries of the city's urban areas to the coast and, in the north, to the boundaries of Hutt City and Porirua City. It represents about 65 percent of the city's total land area, although only a small number of people live here.

The generally rugged landscape comprises steep ridges and deep gullies, and contains many sites of importance to Māori. Most of the land is used for pastoral farming, and settlements are small and scattered.

The District Plan's approach to managing Wellington's rural areas includes:

- maintaining and enhancing natural features (such as important landscapes and ecosystems)
- maintaining and enhancing amenity values and rural character
- managing the adverse effects of new subdivisions and avoiding the unmanaged spread of urban areas
- promoting the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources.

2.9. OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION SITES

Wellington's open space consists of private and public land, and many environments – coastal areas, hills, bush areas, playing fields, and more. The Council manages all public open spaces under the Reserves Act 1977 and the District Plan.

As open space is used for a variety of activities, these areas are divided into three groups – Open Space A, Open Space B and Open Space C.

- **Open Space A:** Consists of open-space land used for passive and active recreation. Developed sportsfields and associated buildings are often required and the plan balances the effects of these with their value in providing for public recreation.
- **Open Space B:** This is land which is valued for its natural character and informal open spaces. It involves areas that are used for recreation that does not generally involve buildings or structures. The District Plan seeks to keep such areas in an unbuilt or natural state.
- **Open Space C:** Consists of the Town Belt, which is valued for its historic, social and cultural importance. In addition to the District Plan requirements, the Town Belt is administered under the terms of its own deed and also the Wellington Town Belt Management Plan.

There are many significant areas requiring particular protection because of their ecological significance or other values – for example, native bush remnants and wetlands. These are identified as Conservation Sites.