

- (k) Advocate the enhancement of the REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES through planting on reserves and other protected areas to the Department of Conservation and the Parks Division of COUNCIL.

Reasons 15.2

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES warrant protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The values and threats to these areas are as follows.

The coastal terrace between Mohakatino and Whitecliffs

This area comprises a flat area of land from the cliff edge running up to the top of the inland hills. The pasture covered hill slopes present a smooth, rolling appearance occasionally interrupted by patches of bush. Very few streams cross the flat areas and they have the appearance of being flat, smooth and uninterrupted. Single BUILDINGS are occasionally seen within this landscape. The main quality of this landscape is its openness, expansiveness and simplicity. The landscape is unique within the District because these marine terraces are special to the District and they have a strong sense of remoteness.

This area is private land, which is farmed for sheep and beef. There are unlikely to be any development threats to this landscape within the next 10 years as the area is unsuitable for forestry and the land uses are likely to remain as extensive pastoral farming.

Sugar Loaf Islands and Paritutu

Paritutu is highly visible and distinctive as it rises out of the flat coastal edge. The physical nature and appearance of the Sugar Loaf Islands reflects the often harsh nature of the conditions. The dynamic interaction between the land and the sea is a crucial element of the character of this landscape. This rugged and undeveloped landscape conveys a strong sense of natural heritage. The strong visual association of the islands and Paritutu link the sea to the land.

There are no development threats to this landscape as the Sugar Loaf Islands are in Crown ownership and are protected by their status as the Sugar Loaf Islands Marine Protected Area. Paritutu is also protected, as it is part of the Paritutu/Centennial Park that is gazetted as a Recreation Reserve.

Whitecliffs and conservation forest

Whitecliffs form a dramatic sea/land interface with sandstone cliffs backed by bush covered hills. The distinctive pattern of this landscape is due to its simplicity, bush and white cliffs with the occasional plateau of pasture. Whitecliffs is a distinctive remote feature that appears to rise out of the sea.

There are no development threats to this landscape as it is in Crown ownership and is protected by its status as the Whitecliffs Conservation Area.

RIVER mouths of the District

The Mohakatino, Tongaporutu, Mimi, Tapuae and Hangatahua (Stony) RIVER mouths are characterised by their remoteness and lack of development. These landscapes have high aesthetic value due to their powerful landforms and RIVER mouths. Their main characteristic is their wild, remote quality and exposed nature.

The development threats to the above RIVER mouth REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES are considered to be low. There is the possibility of development, other than usual rural development, that may have adverse visual impacts on these REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES. For example, a COMMUNICATION FACILITY or a motel complex. Although the likelihood of these types of activities occurring is low they may have high adverse visual effects on these REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPES.

The Urenui and Onaero River Mouths are substantially modified with development including baches and caravans on the RIVER flats adjacent to the RIVER mouths, and at Urenui, with residential