



# RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC ACCESS - POLICY

## RP2.1 Introduction

Many waterways within the District are significant to the District community. Traditionally, they have been a source of food, a place for recreation, a medium for transport and a source of scenic and spiritual value. The waterways also have a number of other social and economic values.

Section 6 of the Act requires, as a matter of national importance, the preservation of the natural character of wetlands and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Council must recognise this matter in its District Plan. In recognising this matter, Council is mindful that the use of regulation may not be the most effective and efficient method available in all situations.

The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along lakes and rivers is also a matter that Council must recognise and provide for. Presently within the District, access to waterways is obtained by a number of mechanisms, including existing reserves, marginal strips, legal roads (formed and unformed), across public land and by agreement with landowners.

The District has many waterways which are significant for recreation activities such as rafting, fishing and walking. The most significant recreational waterways have been specified in the Plan. For these waterways, it is the priority to ensure that good opportunities for gaining public access are provided. There are also a number of other waterways in the District where public access is desired. However, this may only be on certain areas of a waterway. These areas have not been identified in the Plan. It is envisaged that these will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Where these areas are identified, Council will seek to secure some rights of access to these areas through direct negotiation with landowners.

The Council also recognises that in certain circumstances public access to waterways will not be appropriate, where this raises health and safety concerns, or where public access could compromise significant ecological or in-stream values.

<b>RP2.2 Issue:</b>
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(a) Loss of values associated with ~~of~~ wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins caused by inappropriate subdivision, use and development

~~Loss of values associated with the margins of wetlands, and lakes and rivers caused by inappropriate activities~~

**RP2.2.1 Outcome**

~~(a) Preservation of the natural character of the margins of wetlands, and lakes and rivers.~~

<b>RP2.2.12 Objective</b>
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~~Preservation of the natural character of the margins of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and the protection of those margins from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.~~



- (ab) Preservation of the natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins and the protection of those wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

**RP2.2.23 Policy**

- (a) To promote land management practices along wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins that:
  - (i) Provide for the preservation of the natural character of those wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
  - (ii) Provide for the protection of significant ecological, cultural, intrinsic and amenity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
  - (iii) Are consistent with the purpose of the Act.

- ~~(a) To promote land management practices along the margins of wetlands, and lakes and rivers that:~~
  - ~~(i) provide for the preservation of the natural character of those margins from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.~~
  - ~~(ii) provide for the protection of significant ecological, cultural, intrinsic and amenity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.~~
  - ~~(iii) are consistent with the purpose of the Act.~~

**RP2.2.33 Explanation of Policy**

This policy seeks to retain the natural character of the margins of wetlands and lakes and rivers by promoting the protection of these through sustainable land management practices, including reducing sediments and other contaminants moving over land and into waterways and protecting the habitats of species~~appropriate subdivision, use and development. This policy seeks to retain the natural character of the margins of wetlands and lakes and rivers by promoting the protection of these through sustainable land management practices.~~

**RP2.3 Issue:**

- (a) Poor riparian management causing the degradation of water quality in wetlands, lakes and rivers resulting from the adverse effects of the use, development or protection of land

~~RP2.3.1 OUTCOME~~

- ~~(a) Land use activities adjoining lakes and rivers does not adversely affect water quality.~~

**RP2.3.12 Objective**

- (a) Ensure land use activities do not adversely affect water quality ~~on~~ in wetlands, lakes and rivers.

**RP2.3.23 Policy**

- (a) To promote land management practices along the margins of wetlands, lakes and rivers that avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of land use on water quality, including:
  - (i) The retention and planting of riparian vegetation.



- (ii) The retirement from grazing of riparian margins while giving due consideration to the benefit of flood management.
- (b) To include, as appropriate, conditions on resource consents requiring methods to be implemented to achieve the Objective RP 2.3.12(a).

### RP2.3.33 Explanation of Policies

These policies provide a framework for action involving individuals, community groups and Council to improve the management of riparian margins thereby reducing the adverse effects on water quality caused by various land uses.

### RP2.4 Issue:

- (a) Facilitation of public access to and along waterways ~~where demand exists~~

#### RP2.4.1 Outcome

~~(a) — Public access to and along identified waterways is secured where appropriate.~~

### RP2.4.12 Objective

- (a) To maintain and enhance ~~where appropriate~~ public access to and along identified waterways. ~~where appropriate.~~

### RP2.4.23 Policies

- (a) To provide access to esplanade reserves or strips by negotiating access strips.
- (b) To provide esplanade strips in strategically important areas where land is not subject to a subdivision by negotiating with the appropriate landowners.
- (c) To provide for the maintenance and enhancement of conservation values, the provision of appropriate public access and public recreation by obtaining esplanade reserves or esplanade strips when subdivisions or road closures take place on strategically important recreational rivers. In this context the following rivers are considered to be strategically important:
  - (i) Whanganui River
  - (ii) Manganui o te Ao River ~~Manganui o te ao River~~
  - (iii) Whakapapa River
  - (iv) Hautapu River
  - (v) Ongarue River
  - (vi) Mangawhero River
  - (vii) Retaruke River
  - (viii) Ohura River within 1km of its confluence with the Whanganui River
  - (ix) Pungapunga Stream
  - (x) Taringamotu River
  - (xi) Mangakahu Stream
  - (xii) Waimiha River
  - (xiii) Waione River
  - (xiv) Maramataha River



- (xv) Piopioatea Stream
- (xvi) Makatote River
- (xvii) Mangaturuturu Stream
- (xviii) Mangateitei Stream
- (xix) Mangatepopo Stream
- (xx) Waimarino Stream
- (xxi) Taonui River
- (xxii) Makotuku River
- (xxiii) Tokiahuru River
- (xxiv) Waitaiki River
- [\(xxv\) Orautoha River](#)
- [\(xxvi\) Whangaehui River](#)

[\(d\)](#) To recognise that, in certain circumstances, public access to waterways will not be appropriate, where this raises health and safety concerns (for example around hydro-generation operational areas), or where public access could compromise significant ecological values.~~To recognise that in certain circumstances public access to waterways will not be appropriate, especially where this raises genuine health and safety concerns, or where public access could compromise significant ecological values.~~

[\(e\)](#) To recognise and promote other voluntary methods available to provide secure public access to waterways.

#### **RP2.4.33 Explanation of Policies**

That the objectives and policies are supported by assessment criteria to guide Council's decision on what esplanade areas are appropriate to secure. The policies seek to provide for public access and recreational values to, and along, significant waterways within the District, where this is consistent with conservation values.~~The policies seek to provide for public access and recreational values to, and along, significant waterways within the District, where this is consistent with conservation values~~