



## 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.

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.

### RP2.2 Issue

- (a) Loss of values associated with wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins caused by inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

#### RP2.2.1 Objective

- (a) 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.

#### RP2.2.2 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.

### RP2.2.3 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

### RP2.4 Issue

- (a) Facilitation of public access, where demand exists, to and along waterways where unformed legal roads do not already provide for that demand.

### RP2.4.1 Objective

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

### RP2.4.2 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
  - (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) Piopotea 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) Whangaehu 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), fire risk (for example, within a production forest) 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.

### RP2.4.3 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.