

# RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

## CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN

### PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 7

#### MANAGING SIGNIFICANT INDIGENOUS VEGETATION

Christchurch City Council has proposed Plan Change 7 – Managing Significant Indigenous Vegetation to the Christchurch District Plan.

Plan Change 7 proposes to amend:

- a) The definition of improved pasture (contained in Chapter 2 (Abbreviations and Definitions)) to improve its clarity and application within its associated rule framework;
- b) Six policies contained in Chapter 9.1 (Indigenous Biodiversity and Ecosystems) to provide clearer direction that assessments of significance should be provided as part of applications for resource consent to undertake clearance, and how adverse effects should be managed in coastal and non-coastal areas.  
The affected policies are listed below:
  - i. 9.1.2.2.4 - *Mechanisms for the management and protection of other indigenous vegetation and habitats*;
  - ii. 9.1.2.2.6 - *Protection and management of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna listed in Schedule A of Appendix 9.1.6.1*;
  - iii. 9.1.2.2.7 - *Protection and management of other indigenous vegetation and habitats*;
  - iv. 9.1.2.2.8 - *Protection of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in the coastal environment*;
  - v. 9.1.2.2.11 - *Farm biodiversity plans*; and
  - vi. 9.1.2.2.14 - *Offsetting*.
- c) Appendix 9.1.6.6, which lists indigenous vegetation present on Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills, and includes size and scale limits that indicate a point at or above which the vegetation is likely to be ecologically significant, and that the rules rely on for clearance as a permitted activity below those limits. Five amendments are proposed to provide a greater level of protection for the listed vegetation:
  1. Table 1: Limit Descriptors – Occupying a contiguous area of (hectares), canopy cover (%) of, and height (metre) of any individual plants – Replace all “N/A” values with “0”, so that “N/A” cannot be interpreted in such a way that the listed vegetation can be cleared as a permitted activity without compliance with any limits;
  2. Table 1(c): Indigenous coastal vegetation – Extend its geographic extent to the entire Coastal Environment of Banks Peninsula as it is currently limited to Kaitōrete Spit and the listed species are present elsewhere in the coastal environment;
  3. Table 1(c): Indigenous coastal vegetation – Introduce a limit for contiguous area occupied of 0.1 hectare (except for Kaitōrete Spit in recognition of its significant ecological values, where “0” (previously “N/A”) is proposed). The proposed maximum limit of 0.1 hectares for clearance as a permitted activity is limited to a five year period;
  4. Table 1(a)(i),(ii) and (c): Indigenous trees and forest and indigenous coastal vegetation – Introduce a definition of “contiguous” to include individual plants associated with larger contiguous plant communities that are likely to be significant. The effect is that plants are not cleared as a permitted activity where contiguous; and
  5. Table 1(d)(ii): Indigenous wetland vegetation – Introduction of Three-square (*Schenoplectus pungens*) a key salt-marsh species present within Canterbury wetland ecosystems that is not listed in Appendix 9.1.6.6.
- d) Introducing a new permitted, restricted discretionary, and non-complying activity rule framework that applies to the clearance of indigenous vegetation within areas of improved pasture in the coastal environment. This results in:
  - i. Rule 9.1.4.1.1 (Permitted Activities):
    - A. New rule P5; and
    - B. Consequential amendments to existing rules P1 and P4.
  - ii. Rule 9.1.4.1.3 (Restricted Discretionary Activities):
    - A. New rule RD7.
  - iii. Rule 9.1.4.1.5 (Non-Complying Activities):
    - A. Consequential amendment to rule NC1.

#### More information

Proposed Plan Change 7 can be viewed during opening hours at any of our service centres or libraries. You can also view it on the Council website at:  
<https://ccc.govt.nz/planchange7>

#### Submissions

We welcome submissions on the proposed plan change. You can make a submission:

- Online at <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/haveyoursay/>; or
- By emailing it to: [planchange@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:planchange@ccc.govt.nz); or
- By posting it to: City Planning Team, PO Box 73012, Christchurch 8154.

You can also download a hard copy form at <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/haveyoursay/>, or collect a hard copy form from Civic Offices, Council service centres and libraries. For details of your nearest service centre or library, please visit <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/contact-us> or phone 03 941 8999.

**Submissions must be received before 5pm on Monday 21 June 2021.**

#### Process for public participation

Once all submissions have been received, they will be made publicly available. Further submissions will then be invited, allowing certain persons and organisations to support or oppose any of the initial submissions.

A Council hearing will then be held to consider all submissions, and decisions will be made following this hearing. Anyone who has made a submission has the right to appeal the decision to the Environment Court.

The rules proposed in this Plan Change **have immediate legal effect** from notification in accordance with Section 86B(3)(b) of the RMA as they relate to areas of significant indigenous vegetation.

Carolyn Gallagher  
Acting General Manager  
Infrastructure, Planning and Regulatory Services Group