



# NZCPS 2010 Guidance note

## Policy 14: Restoration of natural character

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## ***Policy 14***

Promote restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment, including by:

- (a) identifying areas and opportunities for restoration or rehabilitation;
  - (b) providing policies, rules and other methods directed at restoration or rehabilitation in regional policy statements, and plans;
  - (c) where practicable, imposing or reviewing restoration or rehabilitation conditions on resource consents and designations, including for the continuation of activities; and recognising that where degraded areas of the coastal environment require restoration or rehabilitation, possible approaches include:
    - (i) restoring indigenous habitats and ecosystems, using local genetic stock where practicable; or
    - (ii) encouraging natural regeneration of indigenous species, recognising the need for effective weed and animal pest management; or
    - (iii) creating or enhancing habitat for indigenous species; or
    - (iv) rehabilitating dunes and other natural coastal features or processes, including saline wetlands and intertidal saltmarsh; or
    - (v) restoring and protecting riparian and intertidal margins; or
    - (vi) reducing or eliminating discharges of contaminants; or
    - (vii) removing redundant structures and materials that have been assessed to have minimal heritage or amenity values and when the removal is authorised by required permits, including an archaeological authority under the Historic Places Act 1993; or
    - (viii) restoring cultural landscape features; or
    - (ix) redesign of structures that interfere with ecosystem processes; or
    - (x) decommissioning or restoring historic landfill and other contaminated sites which are, or have the potential to, leach material into the coastal marine area.
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## *Overview of the policy*

Policy 14 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS 2010) promotes the restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment. Policy 14 directs the identification of areas and opportunities for restoration, and the inclusion of provisions in statutory plans. Direction is also given in relation to the use of restoration conditions when granting resource consents and designations.

All readers of this policy guidance note should also refer to the NZCPS 2010 Implementation Guidance Introductory note<sup>1</sup>. The Introductory note contains general information and guidance that is important for implementing all of the objectives and policies in the NZCPS 2010.

## *Rationale*

Policy 14 responds to concerns about the progressive loss and reduction of the natural character of the coastal environment. Present threats to natural character include inappropriate subdivision, use and development and continued loss as a result of cumulative adverse effects. Other causes, such as weed and animal pests, are also relevant.

Natural character restoration and rehabilitation can help address the effects of past management decisions. Restoration and rehabilitation can also assist with approvals for new resource uses in the coastal environment. Natural character restoration can also provide benefits for human use, appreciation and enjoyment of the coast.

Resource management decision support tools, such as national policy, can help better address restoration of natural character through planned as well as incremental decisions. Restoration will be better achieved if implemented within a broader strategic framework.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/nzcps-introductory-note](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nzcps-introductory-note)

## ***Related objectives, policies and provisions***

This section covers the links (in terms of the restoration of natural character) between the various provisions of the NZCPS 2010, the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and other legislation.

### **NZCPS 2010**

Implementing Policy 14 of the NZCPS 2010 requires careful consideration of all NZCPS 2010 objectives and policies. Objective 2 and Policies 1, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 15 are particularly relevant to discussions on restoration of natural character:

Key related objectives and policies	Other related objectives	Other related policies
Objective 2 Policies 1, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 15	1, 3, 4 and 6	2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26 and 27

#### ***Objective 2***

Objective 2 is directly related to Policy 14. Objective 2 seeks to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment through better recognition of the matters that make up natural character, by identifying and protecting those areas where subdivision, use and development would be inappropriate, and encouraging restoration.

#### ***Policy 1: Extent and characteristics of the coastal environment***

Policy 1 outlines matters relevant in determining the extent and characteristics of the coastal environment. It also recognises that the extent and characteristics of the coastal environment vary between regions and localities with differing issues and effects. Implementation of Policy 1 will be important in achieving Objective 2 and implementing Policy 14.

#### ***Policy 5: Land or waters managed or held under other Acts***

Policy 5 focuses on considering and managing effects on coastal land or waters that are held or managed under other Acts (i.e. not the RMA) for conservation or protection purposes. These areas include but are not limited to coastal land of the Crown held under the Reserves Act 1977 and marine reserves under the Marine Reserves Act 1971. Lands and waters such as these will often have special values related to their status, and can be important contributors to the natural character of the coastal environment. Consideration of these areas is relevant to the implementation of Policy 14.

#### ***Policy 10: Reclamation and de-reclamation***

Policy 10(4) encourages the de-reclamation of redundant reclaimed land where it would restore the natural character and resources of the coastal marine area.

### ***Policy 11: Indigenous biological diversity***

Policy 11 directs the protection of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment. Information and decisions taken in relation to Policy 11 are relevant to implementation of Policy 14. Policy 11 directs decisions in relation to the adverse effects on specified species, habitats and ecosystems. Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas are relevant to the implementation of Policies 11 and 14 in evaluating options to remedy, mitigate and offset adverse effects of activities that cannot otherwise be avoided.

### ***Policy 13: Preservation of natural character***

Policy 13 provides direction to preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and to protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Local authorities are encouraged to assess the natural character of a region or district and to establish priorities for management. A non-exclusive list of elements that make up natural character is identified.

The direction in Policy 13 includes avoiding the adverse effects of activities on areas with outstanding natural character, and avoiding significant adverse effects in other areas. Adverse effects that are not significant should be avoided, remedied or mitigated. Mitigation measures may include restoration or rehabilitation of previously degraded areas.

Policies 13 and 14 are closely related. The surveys and assessments promoted by Policy 13 are also relevant to Policy 14.

### ***Policy 15: Natural features and natural landscapes***

Policy 15 addresses the RMA section 6(b) requirements in relation to the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. Landscape and natural character are closely related but different. Landscape and natural character assessments are often undertaken at the same time and often by the same practitioners.

Like Policies 11 and 13, Policy 15 promotes a hierarchy of policy thresholds to achieve sustainable management, assessment and evaluation of natural features and natural landscapes by local authorities, and the inclusion of appropriate provisions in statutory plans. A list is provided of matters to be identified and regarded in natural feature and natural landscape assessments.

Implementation of Policies 14 and 15 may often be linked through related processes. Both require specialist assessment and engagement with affected agencies, stakeholders and communities.

## **Resource Management Act 1991<sup>2</sup>**

Section 6(a) of the RMA provides for the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, and its protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development, to be recognised and provided for as a matter of national importance.

Section 7(c) provides that decision-makers shall have particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values in achieving the purpose of the RMA.

Section 7(f) provides that decision-makers shall have particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment in achieving the purpose of the RMA.

Section 58(a) provides that a New Zealand coastal policy statement may state objectives and policies about national priorities for the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, including protection from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Section 108 sets out relevant matters for consent authorities to consider when setting conditions for resource consents. These matters include a condition requiring services or works, such as the protection, planting, or replanting of any tree or other vegetation or the protection, restoration, or enhancement of any natural or physical resource.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230265.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230265.html)

## Origins of the policy

Policy 14 builds on Policy 1.1.5 of the NZCPS 1994, which made it a national priority to restore and rehabilitate the natural character of the coastal environment where appropriate. Policy 3.2.10 of the NZCPS 1994 also promoted the use of locally sourced indigenous species for restoration plantings. Policy 14 is different in that it provides greater detail on the tools required to promote restoration of the natural character of the coast. These tools include identifying suitable areas, regional policy statement (RPS) and plan provisions, resource consent conditions where practicable, and an outline of possible approaches to restoration and rehabilitation.

Experience in implementing the RMA and NZCPS 1994 is documented in Dr Rosier's *Independent Review of the NZCPS 1994* (2004)<sup>3</sup>. Further commentary is given in the *Natural Character and Biodiversity Theme Overview Report* (2008)<sup>4</sup> and the *Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2008): Board of Inquiry Report and Recommendations* (2009)<sup>5</sup>. Together these reports identify benefits in providing a policy that sets a direction for natural character restoration, including ways to implement it.

In commenting on the case law on natural character, Dr Rosier concludes:

The Environment Court highlighted in several cases the need for councils to ensure that district plans contain more **precise** rules and standards about subdivision, particularly in regards to the protection of natural character. The Court has generally ruled in favour of developers who have included revegetation and landscape restoration in their proposals for coastal development (*Arigato v RDC A115/99*; *Di Andre Estates v RDC W187/96*), and noted in each of the above cases that the restoration of natural character was a national priority (NZCPS Policy 1.1.5), and that built structures and planted vegetation may be considered part of natural character.

(*Independent Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*, p. 36.)

The statutory relevance of natural character restoration is further examined in the Board of Inquiry's report:

'Restoration' would come in under the sustainable management purpose of the RMA including s5(2)(a)(b)(c), s6(a) as contributing to the preservation of natural character and s7(f) to the enhancement of the quality of the environment. 'Restoration' would also be relevant to many other matters in ss6 and 7 and also to 8. Section 108(1)(c) also refers to 'the protection, **restoration**, or enhancement of any natural or physical resource' (our emphasis) as the basis for conditions on consents and thresholds on activity classes.'

(*Board of Inquiry Report and Recommendations*, p. 216.)

For further information refer to the *Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2008): Board of Inquiry Report and Recommendations*<sup>6</sup>, vol. 2, pp. 212–223.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nzcps-review-2004.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nzcps-review-2004.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/consultations/current-consultations/nzcps/theme25-natural-character-and-biodiversity.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/consultations/current-consultations/nzcps/theme25-natural-character-and-biodiversity.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/consultations/closed-consultations/nzcps/NZCPS-2008-board-of-inquiry-vol-2.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/consultations/closed-consultations/nzcps/NZCPS-2008-board-of-inquiry-vol-2.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/results/new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement/proposed-new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement-2008-board-of-inquiry-report-and-recommendations/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/results/new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement/proposed-new-zealand-coastal-policy-statement-2008-board-of-inquiry-report-and-recommendations/)

## ***Implementing the policy***

While guidance is provided here on implementing Policy 14, it is also necessary to consider the entire NZCPS 2010 when implementing each policy. Please also refer to the NZCPS 2010 Implementation Guidance Introductory note<sup>7</sup> which covers the matters that are relevant in giving effect to the NZCPS 2010.

Policy 14 recognises that many parts of the coast are affected by historical uses and events. Present day regulatory decisions may give scope to restore or rehabilitate natural character and can be relevant to decisions on avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse environmental effects in the coastal environment. A number of restoration initiatives are already underway through projects led by local government, iwi, communities and others. Examples of these works are given in the section on *Resources*.

Readers may also wish to consult the Guidance Note for Policy 13: Natural character for information on the issues surrounding natural character of the coastal environment. The Policy 13 guidance note also provides a suggested working definition of natural character, and discusses methodologies to describe and map natural character, and to identify areas of 'high and 'outstanding' natural character. Implementing Policy 13 can provide a focus for restoration as well as help identify areas where restoration is a priority and the type of restoration that would be appropriate.

Opportunities to give effect to Policy 14 include information gathering, providing policies, rules and other methods in RPSs and plans, and regulatory decision-making tools such as conditions on resource consents. Each of these approaches is discussed below.

As a general principle, there is value in implementing Policy 14 in an integrated way and at a range of scales, to deliver benefits that recognise the roles, responsibilities and operations of other statutory bodies and agencies, as well as the contributions and efforts by community and private interests. For example, integration with pest management approaches can be an important consideration and can often determine the success or otherwise of natural character restoration.

Policy 14 does not specify a standard to which restoration or rehabilitation is to be achieved. Application and requirements of the policy need to be weighed alongside the requirements of the RMA as well other NZCPS objectives and policies.

### **Information gathering**

Policy 14(a) promotes the identification of areas and opportunities for restoration or rehabilitation of the natural character of the coastal environment. There are a number of ways to achieve the intent of Policy 14(a) although it is probably best achieved alongside the information gathering required to give effect to Policy 13: Preservation of natural character. Smaller scale initiatives are also appropriate and are strongly encouraged. Natural character restoration opportunities through plan change and consent processes should also be considered when conducting assessments of effects.

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<sup>7</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/nzcps-introductory-note](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nzcps-introductory-note)



The assessment of restoration opportunities should include recognition of the decision processes and funding available for such initiatives. The assessment should also consider opportunities to link with other initiatives, such as existing restoration programmes, including weed and animal pest control.

Decisions on restoration priorities for a region or district are likely to include an assessment of the current natural character and threats to it, and the identification of areas and opportunities where restoration is practical and achievable. The work to identify priorities is often done as apart of a non-statutory strategy to inform subsequent council processes and resourcing decisions.

A consultative process can be useful to identify areas and opportunities for restoration, to:

- harness restoration knowledge in the particular region or district, particularly knowledge on existing state, threats to it, and methods for restoration
- build support and resources
- integrate existing and future programmes.

Examples of these types of initiatives are provided in the section on *Resources*.

## **Policies, rules and other methods**

Natural character restoration is relevant to regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans through policies, rules and other methods, as well as permits for land, water and coastal uses, and other regulatory decision-making. These provisions can set priorities for natural character restoration and outline the means by which restoration priorities are to be achieved. Rules can identify restoration as a consideration in remedying, mitigating or offsetting adverse effects and direct the assessment of restoration opportunities.

Strategic assessments of restoration priorities should also consider the relationships with other policies of the NZCPS 2010 including Policy 5: Land or waters managed or held under other Acts, Policy 11: Indigenous biological diversity, Policy 13: Preservation of natural character, Policy 15: Natural features and natural landscapes, Policy 18: Public open space and Policy 19: Walking access.

Restoration priorities should also have regard to the effects and opportunities for restoration in relation to other values and activities, including strategically important infrastructure and fostering natural defences from coastal hazards. Relevant NZCPS 2010 policies are Policy 6: Activities in the coastal environment, Policy 21: Enhancement of water quality, Policy 26: Natural defences against coastal hazards and Policy 27: Strategies for protecting significant existing development from coastal hazard risk.

Other methods to implement Policy 14 include regulatory tools such as financial contributions to fund environmental restoration alongside new developments. Non-regulatory tools can include direct funding for restoration projects, advocacy for restoration, and will often involve other agencies and groups active in restoration projects.

It is acknowledged that local government and community resources to undertake restoration work are often constrained. Collaborative approaches involving other agencies and groups can boost limited resources as well as build a more integrated approach. Other relevant agencies and groups can include the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game New Zealand, iwi and restoration groups. Smaller community scale restoration activities are also important. Examples of councils and organisations working collaboratively on restoration are identified in the section on *Resources*.

## Regulatory decision-making

Regulatory decision-making processes must have regard to Policy 14. In particular Policy 14(c) directs, where practicable, the use of restoration conditions on resource consents and designations to restore or rehabilitate the natural character of the coastal environment. Policy 14(c) also outlines possible approaches where degraded areas of the coastal environment require restoration or rehabilitation.

Ten possible approaches to restoration or rehabilitation of degraded areas of the coastal environment are listed in Policy 14 (c)(i) to (x). This list, although not exhaustive, encourages restoration and rehabilitation approaches that recognise the aquatic ('wet') and terrestrial ('dry') parts of the coastal environment. The list also recognises the importance of habitats, dunes and water quality to natural character and the matters that can degrade them.

Resource consent conditions can be a useful way to deliver restoration of natural character. Matters to consider in relation to restoration conditions include the likelihood of success, clear specification of conditions, requirements of any management plans, and approaches to monitoring. The *Quality Planning* website includes guidance on approaches to resource consent conditions. Links to this advice are provided in the *Resources* section.

Resource consent conditions can also specify conditions to offset the effects of a proposed activity. Offsetting is applied only to residual effects after avoidance, remediation or mitigation measures have been taken<sup>8</sup>. An offset usually involves commitments relating to another location, and sometimes involves a greenfield site. In contrast, restoration and rehabilitation involve reinstating something to a previous state.

Comment on possible approaches and sources of further information to support natural character restoration and rehabilitation are summarised in Table 1 below. Further resources are identified in the section on *Resources*.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/biodiversity-offsets-programme/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/biodiversity-offsets-programme/)

Table 1: Natural character restoration and rehabilitation

Approach	Comment	Further information
(i) Restore indigenous habitats and ecosystems, using local genetic stock where practicable.	Species that are indigenous to the area are better for restoration and less likely to compete with local species. Local genetic stock is more suited to local conditions, and more likely to thrive.	NZ Plant Conservation Network: <a href="http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/">www.nzpcn.org.nz/</a> Urban Greening Manual: <a href="http://www.mwpress.co.nz/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=790">www.mwpress.co.nz/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=790</a>
(ii) Encourage natural regeneration of indigenous species, recognising the need for effective weed and animal pest management.	Natural regeneration can be feasible where seed source and environmental conditions are suitable. Dry environments can be more challenging to regenerate.  Risks such as pests and fire should be assessed and managed where appropriate.	Threats and impacts: <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/">www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/</a>  NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 12:</b> Harmful aquatic organisms
(iii) Create or enhance habitat for indigenous species.	Fish, bird, reptile, insect and other coastal species require sufficient habitat to live and breed.  In site selection consider potential interactions with people or existing development, e.g. bird strike at airports.	NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 11:</b> Indigenous biological diversity
(iv) Rehabilitate dunes and other natural coastal features or processes, including saline wetlands and intertidal saltmarsh.	Dunes and other coastal features, such as beaches, estuaries, wetlands, intertidal areas, coastal vegetation and barrier islands, provide a valuable natural defence against coastal hazards.	NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 26:</b> Natural defences against coastal hazards
(v) Restore and protect riparian and intertidal margins.	Restoration of the vegetation of riparian and intertidal margins will benefit habitat for indigenous species including migratory fish. Riparian vegetation can also benefit water quality through reduced flow of sediment and nutrients.  Development set back from the coastal marine area and other water bodies can protect the natural character, open space, public access and amenity values of the coastal environment.	NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 6:</b> Activities in the coastal environment  <b>Policy 21:</b> Enhancement of water quality  <b>Policy 22:</b> Sedimentation

Approach	Comment	Further information
(vi) Reduce or eliminate discharges of contaminants.	Contaminants including sediment and nutrients can degrade habitats, amenity and other values that contribute to an area's natural character.  Consider cumulative effects and contaminants from activities external to the coastal environment, e.g. upstream earthworks.	NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 21:</b> Enhancement of water quality  <b>Policy 23:</b> Discharge of contaminants
(vii) Remove redundant structures and materials that have been assessed to have minimal heritage or amenity values and when the removal is authorised by required permits, including an archaeological authority under the Historic Places Act 1993.	Abandoned or redundant structures can be visually intrusive and have health and safety risks. Redundant structures that have no heritage, amenity or reuse value should be removed.	NZHPT Archaeological Authority: <a href="http://www.historic.org.nz/ProtectingOurHeritage/Archaeology/LegalAuthorities.aspx">www.historic.org.nz/ProtectingOurHeritage/Archaeology/LegalAuthorities.aspx</a>  NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 6:</b> Activities in the coastal environment
(viii) Restore cultural landscape features.	An integrated approach to restoration can include recognition of other values including cultural landscapes.	Quality Planning website: <a href="http://www.qp.org.nz/">www.qp.org.nz/</a>  NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 2:</b> The Treaty of Waitangi, tangata whenua and Māori heritage  <b>Policy 15:</b> Natural features and natural landscapes  <b>Policy 17:</b> Historic heritage identification and protection
(ix) Redesign structures that interfere with ecosystem processes.	Instream structures such as culverts, weirs and fords can impede fish passage. New Zealand is home to many freshwater fish species which migrate to breed.	Tasman District <i>Waterway Crossings Best Practice Guidelines</i> : <a href="http://www.tasman.govt.nz/environment/water/rivers/stream-and-river-life/waterway-crossings-best-practice-guidelines/">www.tasman.govt.nz/environment/water/rivers/stream-and-river-life/waterway-crossings-best-practice-guidelines/</a>
(x) Decommission or restore historic landfill and other contaminated sites which are, or have the potential to, leach material into the coastal marine area.	Contaminated sites can be an ongoing source of contamination and adversely affect the natural character and other values of the coastal environment. Appropriate management of these sites is a priority.	Ministry for the Environment: <a href="http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/managing-environmental-risks/contaminated-land/managing/guidelines.html">www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/managing-environmental-risks/contaminated-land/managing/guidelines.html</a>  NZCPS 2010: <b>Policy 21:</b> Enhancement of water quality

## *Related and ongoing work*

### *Auckland Spatial and Unitary Plans*

- **The Auckland Plan**

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/planspoliciesprojects/plansstrategies/theaucklandplan/Pages/theaucklandplan.aspx>

The Auckland Plan is a plan under the Local Government Act 2002 to provide future direction for population growth in Auckland City. The Auckland Plan sets a high level vision to 2040 including targets for environmental quality including restoration.

- **Auckland Unitary Plan**

[www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/planspoliciesprojects/plansstrategies/unitaryplan/Pages/home.aspx?utm\\_source=plansandstrategieslandingpage&utm\\_medium=topcontent&utm\\_campaign=landingpages](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/planspoliciesprojects/plansstrategies/unitaryplan/Pages/home.aspx?utm_source=plansandstrategieslandingpage&utm_medium=topcontent&utm_campaign=landingpages)

The Auckland Unitary Plan is the principal means to implement the Auckland Spatial Plan for Auckland City. It includes the regional coastal plan but does not cover the Hauraki Gulf Islands Plan that was recently made operative.

### *Bay of Plenty Regional Council RPS review*

[www.boprc.govt.nz/knowledge-centre/policies/next-rps-variation-1-\(coastal-policy\)/](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/knowledge-centre/policies/next-rps-variation-1-(coastal-policy)/)

Bay of Plenty Regional Council notified a variation in 2012 to the coastal provisions of the Proposed RPS to give effect to the NZCPS 2010. The variation is supported by a natural character assessment undertaken by Boffa Miskell Ltd.

### *Marlborough District Council RPS review*

[www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Review-of-Resource-Management-Documents.aspx](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Review-of-Resource-Management-Documents.aspx)

Marlborough District Council's RPS review project will be informed by a natural character assessment that is running in parallel with the review project.

### *Northland Regional Council RPS review*

[www.nrc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Council-Projects/New-Regional-Policy-Statement/](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Council-Projects/New-Regional-Policy-Statement/)

The Northland Regional Council notified a proposed regional policy statement for Northland in 2012 that includes natural character provisions.

## ***Resources***

### **Examples of plan provisions**

#### ***Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan (MSRMP)***

[www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Marlborough-Sounds-Resource-Management-Plan/~media/Files/MDC/Home/Your%20Council/RMA/MSRMP/V1Ch02\\_Natural\\_Character.ashx](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/Your-Council/RMA/Marlborough-Sounds-Resource-Management-Plan/~media/Files/MDC/Home/Your%20Council/RMA/MSRMP/V1Ch02_Natural_Character.ashx)

Appendix Two of the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan (MSRMP) describes the natural character of the Marlborough Sounds and identifies priorities for restoration in each of the 11 land and 8 marine natural character areas in the plan. The MSRMP is a unitary plan and covers land use, freshwater and coastal uses.

### **Examples of regulatory decisions**

Coastal developments can be required to prepare landscape or ecological restoration plans as a way of ensuring that natural character is restored. Examples include those prepared for developments in the Northland and Nelson region:

- Matauri Bay [www.matauribay.net.nz/coastal\\_property\\_design\\_nz.htm](http://www.matauribay.net.nz/coastal_property_design_nz.htm)
- Mountain Landing [www.mountainlandingnz.com/master-plan](http://www.mountainlandingnz.com/master-plan)
- Let's Keep Tahuna Beach Natural project [homepages.ihug.co.nz/~sissons/Contents\\_page.html](http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~sissons/Contents_page.html)

The 'Let's Keep Tahuna Beach Natural' project describes the result of an integrated approach to upgrading storm water management with dune restoration.

## Examples of other methods

### *Coast Care—Bay of Plenty Regional Council*

[www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/coast/coastal-care/](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/coast/coastal-care/)

Coast Care Bay of Plenty is a community partnership programme to restore the form and function of the dunes in the Bay of Plenty.

### *Living Water (a partnership between DOC and Fonterra)*

[www.fonterralivingwater.com/index.html#splash](http://www.fonterralivingwater.com/index.html#splash)

### *Porirua Harbour and Catchment Management Programme*

[www.pcc.govt.nz/Publications/Porirua-Harbour-and-Catchment-Management-Programme](http://www.pcc.govt.nz/Publications/Porirua-Harbour-and-Catchment-Management-Programme)

### *Tasman District Council Estuary Restoration Workshop Proceedings 2008*

[www.tasman.govt.nz/environment/coastal-marine/estuarine-information/enhancing-the-life-and-character-of-our-estuaries/](http://www.tasman.govt.nz/environment/coastal-marine/estuarine-information/enhancing-the-life-and-character-of-our-estuaries/)

### *Waimea Inlet Management Strategy 2011*

[www.tasman.govt.nz/policy/strategies/waimea-inlet-management-strategy/](http://www.tasman.govt.nz/policy/strategies/waimea-inlet-management-strategy/)

The Waimea Inlet Management strategy sets a vision for the management and protection of the Waimea Inlet. The strategy was prepared through an inter-agency process including the Tasman and Nelson councils, statutory agencies, non-statutory groups and organisations, businesses and residents.

## Reports, websites and additional information

### *Department of Conservation*

- What will the new NZCPS do for the environment?  
[www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nz-coastal-policy-statement/questions-and-answers/#6-environment](http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nz-coastal-policy-statement/questions-and-answers/#6-environment)
- Marine and coastal restoration:  
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/protect-bush-freshwater-coast-and-seas/marine-and-coastal-restoration/>
- Guidelines to the development and monitoring of ecological restoration programmes:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/docts07.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/docts07.pdf)
- Wetland restoration guide:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/wetland-restoration-guide-preserving-and-re-creating-our-wildlife-water-wonderlands-in-the-bay-of-plenty/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands/wetland-restoration-guide-preserving-and-re-creating-our-wildlife-water-wonderlands-in-the-bay-of-plenty/)
- Biodiversity inventory and monitoring toolbox:  
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/science-and-technical/doc-procedures-and-sops/biodiversity-inventory-and-monitoring/>
- Ngā Whenua Rāhui:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/start-or-fund-a-project/funding/nga-whenua-rahui/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/start-or-fund-a-project/funding/nga-whenua-rahui/)
- Nature Heritage Fund:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/start-or-fund-a-project/funding/nature-heritage-fund/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/volunteer-join-or-start-a-project/start-or-fund-a-project/funding/nature-heritage-fund/)
- Biodiversity Offsets Programme:  
[www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/biodiversity-offsets-programme/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/biodiversity-offsets-programme/)

### *Ministry for the Environment*

*Natural Character Concept Development in NZ Planning Law and Policy* (2000):

[www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/PageFiles/6568/natchar.pdf](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/PageFiles/6568/natchar.pdf)

### *Quality Planning*

Consent conditions:

[www.qualityplanning.org.nz/index.php/consents/conditions](http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/index.php/consents/conditions)

### *Fish and Game New Zealand*

[www.fishandgame.org.nz/](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz/)

Fish & Game New Zealand is a non-profit organisation responsible for the management of sports fish and game birds, and their habitats.



***Dune Restoration Trust***

[www.dunestrust.org.nz/](http://www.dunestrust.org.nz/)

The Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand works with agencies, iwi and community to support projects and information sharing and to improve the restoration of sand dune systems around New Zealand.

***QEII National Trust***

[www.openspace.org.nz/](http://www.openspace.org.nz/)

The QEII National Trust works with private landowners to protect significant natural and cultural features on their land through open space covenants.

***Nature Space***

[www.naturespace.org.nz/](http://www.naturespace.org.nz/)

Nature Space is a website for groups, individuals and landowners undertaking ecological restoration in New Zealand.

***New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN)***

[www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)

The NZPCN is a private network that supports conservation of New Zealand's indigenous plant life.

***Wetland Trust***

[www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/](http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/)

The Wetland Trust is a non-profit organisation that promotes the appreciation and conservation of New Zealand's wetlands.

## *Glossary of terms and definitions*

### **NZCPS 2010 glossary**

No relevant definitions.

### **Other definitions**

**Natural character:** ... is the term used to describe the natural elements of all coastal environments. The degree or level of natural character within an environment depends on:

1. The extent to which the natural elements, patterns and processes\* occur;
2. The nature and extent of modification to the ecosystems and landscape/seascape;
3. The degree of natural character is highest where there is least modification;
4. The effect of different types of modification upon natural character varies with context and may be perceived differently by different parts of the community.

\* For the purposes of interpreting the NZCPS 2010 Policy 13.2, 'elements, patterns and processes' means: biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects; natural landforms such as headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands, reefs, freshwater springs and surf breaks; and the natural movement of water and sediment.

(Definition endorsed at a 2011 workshop convened by the Department of Conservation<sup>9</sup>)

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<sup>9</sup> [www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nz-coastal-policy-statement/implementation-project](http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/marine-and-coastal/coastal-management/nz-coastal-policy-statement/implementation-project)