Relevant Policies and Objectives

This Appendix contains the relevant policies and objectives to be read in conjunction with Section 9 of this AEE.

National Policy Statement Freshwater Management 2020 (Amended 2024) (NPS -FM)

Policy 1: Freshwater is managed in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai.

Policy 2: Tangata whenua are actively involved in freshwater management (including decision-making processes), and Māori freshwater values are identified and provided for.

Policy 3: Freshwater is managed in an integrated way that considers the effects of the use and development of land on a whole-of-catchment basis, including the effects on receiving environments.

Policy 4: Freshwater is managed as part of New Zealand's integrated response to climate change.

Policy 6: There is no further loss of extent of natural inland wetlands, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted.

Policy 9: The habitats of indigenous freshwater species are protected.

Policy 12: The national target (as set out in Appendix 3) for water quality improvement is achieved

Policy 13: The condition of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems is systematically monitored over time, and action is taken where freshwater is degraded, and to reverse deteriorating trends

Policy 14: Information (including monitoring data) about the state of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems, and the challenges to their health and well-being, is regularly reported on and published

Policy 15: Communities are enabled to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being in a way that is consistent with this National Policy Statement

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS)

Objective 3 To take account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognise the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and provide for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment by:

- *recognising the ongoing and enduring relationship of tangata whenua over their lands, rohe and resources;*
- *promoting meaningful relationships and interactions between tangata whenua and persons exercising functions and powers under the Act;*
- *incorporating mātauranga Māori into sustainable management practices; and*
- *recognising and protecting characteristics of the coastal environment that are of special value to tangata whenua.*

Objective 5 To ensure that coastal hazard risks taking account of climate change, are managed by:

- *locating new development away from areas prone to such risks;*
- *considering responses, including managed retreat, for existing development in this situation; and*
- *protecting or restoring natural defences to coastal hazards.*

Policy 2 The Treaty of Waitangi, tangata whenua and Māori heritage
In taking account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi), and kaitiakitanga, in relation to the coastal environment:

(a) recognise that tangata whenua have traditional and continuing cultural relationships with areas of the coastal environment, including places where they have lived and fished for generations;…

(c) with the consent of tangata whenua and as far as practicable in accordance with tikanga Māori, incorporate mātauranga Māori in regional policy statements, in plans, and in the consideration of applications for resource consents, notices of requirement for designation and private plan changes;

(d) provide opportunities in appropriate circumstances for Māori involvement in decision making, for example when a consent application or notice of requirement is dealing with cultural localities or issues of cultural significance, and Māori experts, including pūkenga, may have knowledge not otherwise available;

(e) take into account any relevant iwi resource management plan and any other relevant planning document recognised by the appropriate iwi authority or hapū

Policy 6 Activities in the coastal environment

(1) In relation to the coastal environment:

(a) recognise that the provision of infrastructure, the supply and transport of energy including the generation and transmission of electricity, and the extraction of minerals are activities important to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities …

Policy 11 Indigenous biological diversity (biodiversity) - To protect indigenous biological diversity in the coastal environment…

Policy 23 Discharge of contaminants

(1) In managing discharges to water in the coastal environment, have particular regard to:

(a) the sensitivity of the receiving environment;

(b) the nature of the contaminants to be discharged, the particular concentration of contaminants needed to achieve the required water quality in the receiving environment, and the risks if that concentration of contaminants is exceeded; and

(c) the capacity of the receiving environment to assimilate the contaminants; and:
(d) avoid significant adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats after reasonable mixing;
(e) use the smallest mixing zone necessary to achieve the required water quality in the receiving environment; and
(f) minimise adverse effects on the life-supporting capacity of water within a mixing zone.

(2) In managing discharge of human sewage, do not allow:
(a) discharge of human sewage directly to water in the coastal environment without treatment; and
(b) the discharge of treated human sewage to water in the coastal environment, unless:
(i) there has been adequate consideration of alternative methods, sites and routes for undertaking the discharge; and
(ii) informed by an understanding of tangata whenua values and the effects on them.

Policy 25 Subdivision, use, and development in areas of coastal hazard risk…
(d) encourage the location of infrastructure away from areas of hazard risk where practicable

Regional Policy Statement for Northland 2016 (RPS)

Objective 3.2 Region-wide water quality
This objective seeks an overall improvement in the quality of Northland's fresh and coastal water.

Policy 4.2 Region-wide water quality management
This policy seeks to improve the overall quality of Northland's water resources by:

(a) Establishing freshwater objectives and setting region-wide water quality limits in regional plans that give effect to Objective 3.2 of this regional policy statement.
(b) Reducing loads of sediment, nutrients, and faecal matter to water from the use and development of land and from poorly treated and untreated discharges of wastewater; and
(c) Promoting and supporting the active management, enhancement and creation of vegetated riparian margins and wetlands.

Objective 3.4 Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity
This objective seeks to safeguard ecological integrity by

a) *Protecting areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;*
b) *Maintaining the extent and diversity of indigenous ecosystems and habitats in the region; and*
c) *Where practicable, enhancing indigenous ecosystems and habitats, particularly where this contributes to the reduction in the overall threat status of regionally and nationally threatened species*

Policy 4.4 Maintaining and enhancing indigenous ecosystems and species
1) In the coastal environment, avoid adverse effects, and outside the coastal environment avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects of subdivision, use and development so they are no more than minor on:

(a) Indigenous taxa that are listed as threatened or at risk in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists;
(b) Areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, that are significant using the assessment criteria in Appendix 5;
(c) Areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biodiversity under other legislation.

(2) In the coastal environment, avoid significant adverse effects and avoid, remedy, or mitigate other adverse effects of subdivision, use and development on:

(a) Areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation;
(b) Habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes;
(c) Indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass, northern wet heathlands, coastal and headwater streams, floodplains, margins of the coastal marine area and freshwater bodies, spawning and nursery areas and saltmarsh.

Objective 3.5 Enabling economic wellbeing
This objective seeks to ensure that Northland's natural and physical resources (including infrastructure) are sustainably managed in a way that is attractive for business and investment that will improve the economic wellbeing of Northland and its communities.

Objective 3.7 Regionally Significant Infrastructure

This objective seeks to recognise and promote the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure, which through its use of natural and physical resources can significantly enhance Northland's economic, cultural, environmental and social wellbeing.

Policy 5.3 Regionally Significant Infrastructure
(1) Allow adverse effects arising from the establishment and operation of new regionally significant infrastructure and the re-consenting of existing operations where:

> *(a) The proposal is consistent with Policies 4.4.1(1), 4.4.1(2). 4.6.1(1)(a), 4.6.1(1)(b), 4.6.1(2) and 4.6.2 (1);*
> *(b) The proposal does not result in established water quality limits or environmental flows and / or levels being exceeded or otherwise could lead to the over-allocation of a catchment (refer to Policy 4.1.1);*
> *(c) Damage to and / or loss of the relationship of iwi with ancestral sites, sites of significance, wāhi tapu, customary activities and / or taonga is avoided or otherwise agreed to by the affected iwi or hapū; and*
> *(d) In addition to the matters outlined in 1) (a) – (c) above, other adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated to the extent that they are no more than minor.*

Objective 3.8 Efficient and Effective Infrastructure
This objective seeks to improve the overall affordability and effectiveness of infrastructure.

Policy 5.2 Effective and Efficient Infrastructure
5.2.2 Encourage the development of infrastructure that is flexible, resilient, and adaptable to the reasonably foreseeable needs of the community.
Objective 3.12 Tangata whenua role in decision-making - This objective seeks to ensure that tangata whenua kaitiaki role is recognised and provided for in decision-making over natural and physical resources.

Policy 8.1 Participation in decision-making, plans, consents and monitoring
8.1.4 Relevant Māori concepts, values and practices will be clarified through consultation with tangata whenua to develop common understandings of their meaning and to develop methodologies for their implementation.

Policy 8.2 Iwi and Hapu Management Plans

Objective 3.13 Natural Hazard Risk - This objective seeks to minimise the risks and impacts of natural hazard events
Policy 7.1 Development in natural hazard prone areas
Policy 7.2 General risk reduction policies

Proposed Regional Plan for Northland 2024 (PRPN)

F.1.2 Water quality - Manage the use of land and discharges of contaminants to land and water so that:
1) existing water quality is at least maintained, and improved where it has been degraded below the river, lake or coastal water quality standards set out in H.3 Water quality standards and guidelines, and
2) the sedimentation of continually or intermittently flowing rivers, lakes and coastal water is minimised, and
3) the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species, including their associated ecosystems, of fresh and coastal water are safeguarded, and the health of freshwater ecosystems is maintained, and
4) the health of people and communities, as affected by contact with fresh and coastal water, is safeguarded, and
5) the health and safety of people and communities, as affected by discharges of sewage from vessels, is safeguarded, and
6) the quality of potable drinking water sources, including aquifers used for potable supplies, is protected, and
7) the significant values of Outstanding Freshwater Bodies and natural wetlands are protected, and
8) kai is safe to harvest and eat, and recreational, amenity and other social and cultural values are provided for.

F.1.3 Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity - In the coastal marine area and in freshwater bodies, safeguard ecological integrity by:
1) protecting areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, and
2) maintaining regional indigenous biodiversity, and
3) where practicable, enhancing and restoring indigenous ecosystems and habitats to a healthy functioning state, and reducing the overall threat status of regionally and nationally threatened or at-risk species, and
4) preventing the introduction of new marine or freshwater pests into Northland and slowing the spread of established marine or freshwater pests within the region.

F.1.5 Enabling economic well-being - The use and development of Northland's natural and physical resources is efficient and effective and managed in a way that will improve the economic, social and cultural well-being of Northland and its communities.

F.1.6 Regionally Significant Infrastructure - Recognise the national, regional and local benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure and renewable energy generation and enable their effective development, operation, maintenance, repair, upgrading and removal

F.1.9 Tāngata whenua role in decision-making - Tāngata whenua's kaitiaki role is recognised and provided for in decision making over natural and physical resources.

F.1.10 Natural hazard risk - The risks and impacts of natural hazard events (including the influence of climate change) on people, communities, property, natural systems, infrastructure and the regional economy are minimised.

F.1.12 Natural Character, Outstanding Natural Features, Historic Heritage and places of significance to tāngata whenua

F.1.13 Air quality Human health, ambient air quality, cultural values, amenity values and the environment are protected from significant adverse effects caused by the discharge of contaminants to air.

Land and Water

D.4.1 Maintaining overall water quality

When considering an application for a resource consent to discharge a contaminant into water or onto or into land where it may enter water or onto land where it may enter water:
1) ensure that the quality of fresh and coastal water is at least maintained, and
2) where a water quality standard in H.3 Water quality standards and guidelines is currently met:
a) ensure that the quality of water in a river, lake or the coastal marine area will continue to meet
the standards in H.3 Water quality standards and guidelines; and
b) consider whether any improvements to water quality are required in order to achieve F.1.2 Water
quality;
3) where a water quality standard in H.3 Water quality standards and guidelines is currently exceeded, ensure that any resource consent for a new discharge will not, or is not likely to, cause or contribute to a further exceedance of a water quality standard in H.3 Water quality standards and guidelines;
4) where a water quality standard in H.3 Water quality standards and guidelines is currently exceeded and the exceedance of the water quality standard is caused or contributed to by an existing activity for which a replacement resource consent is being considered, ensure any replacement resource consent granted for the existing discharge includes a condition(s) that:
a) requires the quality of the discharge to be improved over the term of the consent to reduce the contribution of the discharge to the exceedance of the water quality standard in H.3 Water quality standards and guidelines; and
b) sets out a series of time bound steps, demonstrating how the activity will be managed to achieve
the water quality improvements required by (4)(a).
5) ensure that the discharge will not cause an acute toxic adverse effect within the zone of reasonable Mixing
6) where a discharge will, or is likely to, cause or contribute to:
a) an exceedance of the coastal sediment quality guidelines in H.3.4 Coastal sediment quality guidelines, or
b) a transitory exceedance of the toxicants, metals and metalloids standard in Table 22: Water quality standards for ecosystem health in rivers, and the activity is associated with the establishment, operation, maintenance or upgrade of Regionally Significant Infrastructure, determine whether higher levels of contaminants in the particular location affected by the discharge can be provided for while still achieving F.1.2 Water quality, and set appropriate levels of contaminants in accordance with best practice methodology to safeguard the ecosystem values present at the location affected by the discharge; and
7) where existing water quality is unknown, or the effect of a discharge on water quality is unknown, the activity must be managed using a precautionary approach, which may include adaptive management.

D.4.4 Zone of reasonable mixing

When determining what constitutes the zone of reasonable mixing for a discharge of a contaminant into water, or onto or into land in circumstances which may result in that contaminant (or any other contaminant emanating as a result of a natural process from that contaminant) entering water, have regard to:

1) using the smallest zone necessary to achieve the required water quality in the receiving waters as determined under D.4.1 Maintaining overall water quality, and

2) ensuring that within the mixing zone contaminant concentrations and levels of dissolved oxygen will not cause acute toxicity effects on aquatic ecosystems.

D.4.22 Natural wetlands – requirements

Activities affecting a natural wetland:
1) must maintain the following important functions and values of wetlands:
- *a) water purification and nutrient attenuation, and*
- *b) contribution to maintaining stream flows during dry periods, and*
- *c) peak stream flow reduction, and*
- *d) providing habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, including ecological connectivity to surrounding habitat, and*
- *e) recreation, amenity and Natural Character values, and*

2) avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on important wetland functions and values so they are not significant, or
3) must provide biodiversity off-setting or environmental biodiversity compensation, so that residual adverse effects on the important functions and values of wetlands are no more than minor.

Indigenous Biodiversity and Ecosystems

D.2.18 Managing adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity

Manage the adverse effects of activities on indigenous biodiversity by:
1) in the coastal environment:
- *a) avoiding adverse effects on:*
  - *i. indigenous taxa that are listed as threatened or at risk in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists, and*
  - *ii. the values and characteristics of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna that are assessed as significant using the assessment criteria in Appendix 5 of the Regional Policy Statement, and*
  - *iii. areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biodiversity under other legislation, and*
- *b) avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on:*
  - *i. areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation, and*
  - *ii. habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes, and*
  - *iii. indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass, northern wet heathlands, coastal and headwater streams, spawning and nursery areas and saltmarsh, and*

2) outside the coastal environment:
- *a) avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects so they are no more than minor on:*
  - *i. indigenous taxa that are listed as threatened or at risk in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists, and*
  - *ii. areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, that are significant using the assessment criteria in Appendix 5 of the Regional Policy Statement, and*
  - *iii. areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biodiversity under other legislation, and*
- *b) avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects so they are not significant on:*

i. areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation, and

ii. habitats of indigenous species that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes, and

iii. indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are particularly vulnerable to modification, including wetlands, wet heathlands, headwater streams, spawning and nursery areas, and

3) recognising areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna include:

a) Significant Ecological Areas, and

b) Significant Bird Areas, and

c) Significant Marine Mammal and Seabird Areas, and

4) recognising damage, disturbance or loss to the following as being potential adverse effects:

a) connections between areas of indigenous biodiversity, and

b) the life supporting capacity of the area of indigenous biodiversity, and

c) flora and fauna that are supported by the area of indigenous biodiversity, and

d) natural processes or systems that contribute to the area of indigenous biodiversity, and

5) assessing the potential adverse effects of the activity on identified values of indigenous biodiversity, including by:

a) taking a system-wide approach to large areas of indigenous biodiversity such as whole estuaries or widespread bird and marine mammal habitats, recognising that the scale of the effect of an activity is proportional to the size and sensitivity of the area of indigenous biodiversity, and

b) recognising that existing activities may be having existing acceptable effects, and

c) recognising that minor or transitory effects may not be an adverse effect, and

d) recognising that where effects may be irreversible, then they are likely to be more than minor, and

e) recognising that there may be more than minor cumulative effects from minor or transitory effects, and

6) recognising that appropriate methods of avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects may include:

a) careful design, scale and location proposed in relation to areas of indigenous biodiversity, and

b) maintaining and enhancing connections within and between areas of indigenous biodiversity, and

c) considering the minimisation of effects during sensitive times such as indigenous freshwater fish spawning and migration periods, and d) providing adequate setbacks, screening or buffers where there is the likelihood of damage and disturbance to areas of indigenous biodiversity from adjacent use and development, and

e) maintaining the continuity of natural processes and systems contributing to the integrity of ecological areas, and

f) the development of ecological management and restoration plans, and

7) recognising that significant residual adverse effects on biodiversity values can be offset or compensated:

a) in accordance with the Regional Policy Statement for Northland Policy 4.4.1, and

b) after consideration of the methods in (6) above, and

8) recognising the benefits of activities on biodiversity values that:

a) restore, protect or enhance ecosystems, habitats and processes, ecological corridors and indigenous biodiversity, and

b) improve the public use, value or understanding of ecosystems, habitats and indigenous biodiversity.

D.2.20 Precautionary approach to managing effects on significant indigenous biodiversity and the coastal environment

That decision makers adopt a precautionary approach where the adverse effects of proposed activities are uncertain, unknown or little understood, on:
1) indigenous biodiversity, including Significant Ecological Areas, Significant Bird Areas and other areas that are assessed as significant under the criteria in Appendix 5 of the Regional Policy Statement; and
2) the coastal environment where the adverse effects are potentially significantly adverse, particularly in relation to coastal resources vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Economic Wellbeing

D.2.2 Social, cultural and economic benefits of activities

Regard must be had to the social, cultural and economic benefits of a proposed activity, recognising significant benefits to local communities, Māori and the region including local employment and enhancing Māori development, particularly in areas of Northland where alternative opportunities are limited.

Regionally Significant Infrastructure

D.2.5 Benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure

Particular regard must be had to the national, regional and locally significant social, economic, and cultural benefits of Regionally Significant Infrastructure.

D.2.7 Minor adverse effects arising from the establishment and operation of Regionally Significant Infrastructure

Enable the establishment and operation (including reconsenting) of Regionally Significant Infrastructure by allowing any minor adverse effects providing:

1) The Regionally Significant Infrastructure proposal is consistent with:
- *a) all policies in D.1 Tāngata whenua, and*
- *b) D.2.16 Managing adverse effects on Historic Heritage, and*
- *c) D.2.17 Managing adverse effects on Natural Character, Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features, and*
- *d) D.2.18 Managing adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity, and*

2) the Regionally Significant Infrastructure proposal will not likely result in over-allocation having regard to the allocation limits in H.4.3 Allocation limits for rivers, and
3) other adverse effects arising from the Regionally Significant Infrastructure are avoided, remedied, mitigated or offset to the extent they are no more than minor.

D.2.8 Maintenance, repair and upgrading of Regionally Significant Infrastructure

Enable the maintenance and upgrading of established Regionally Significant Infrastructure wherever it is located by allowing adverse effects, where:
1) the adverse effects whilst the maintenance or upgrading is being undertaken are not significant or they are temporary or transitory, and

2) the adverse effects after the conclusion of the maintenance or upgrading are the same, or similar, to those arising from the Regionally Significant Infrastructure before the activity was undertaken.

Tangata Whenua

D.1.1 When an analysis of effects on tāngata whenua and their taonga is required

A resource consent application must include in its assessment of environmental effects an analysis of the effects of an activity on tāngata whenua and their taonga if one or more of the following is likely:
1) adverse effects on mahinga kai or access to mahinga kai, or
2) any damage, destruction or loss of access to wāhi tapu, sites of customary value and other ancestral sites and taonga with which Māori have a special relationship, or
3) adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the beds of waterbodies or the coastal marine area where it impacts on the ability of tāngata whenua to carry out cultural and traditional activities, or
4) the use of genetic engineering and the release of genetically modified organisms to the environment, or
5) adverse effects on taiāpure, mataitai or Māori non-commercial fisheries, or
6) adverse effects on protected customary rights, or
7) adverse effects on Sites and Areas of Significance to Tāngata Whenua mapped in the Regional Plan (refer I Maps | Ngā mahere matawhenua).

D.1.2 Requirements of an analysis of effects on tāngata whenua and their taonga

If an analysis of the effects of an activity on tāngata whenua and their taonga is required in a resource consent application, the analysis must:
1) include such detail as corresponds with the scale and significance of the effects that the activity may have on tāngata whenua and their taonga, and
2) have regard to (but not be limited to):
    a) any relevant planning document recognised by an iwi authority (lodged with the Council) to the extent that its content has a bearing on the resource management issues of the region, and
    b) the outcomes of any consultation with tāngata whenua with respect to the consent application, and c) statutory acknowledgements in treaty settlement legislation, and
3) follow best practice, including requesting, in the first instance, that the relevant tāngata whenua undertake the assessment, and
4) specify the tāngata whenua that the assessment relates to, and
5) be evidence-based, and
6) incorporate, where appropriate, Mātauranga Māori, and
7) identify and describe all the cultural resources and activities that may be affected by the activity, and
8) identify and describe the adverse effects of the activity on the cultural resources and cultural practices (including the effects on the mauri of the cultural resources, the cultural practices affected, how they are affected, and the extent of the effects), and
9) identify, where possible, how to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects on cultural values of the activity that are more than minor, and
10) include any other relevant information.

D.1.3 Affected Persons

The following persons must be considered an affected person regarding notification where the adverse effects on the following resources and activities are minor or more than minor:

- *The tāngata whenua identified in an analysis of the effects undertaken in accordance with D.1.2 Requirements of an analysis of effects on tāngata whenua and their taonga.*

- *Cultural resources or activities identified in an analysis of effects undertaken in accordance with D.1.2 Requirements of an analysis of effects on tāngata whenua and their taonga.*
- *The committee of management of a taiāpure. Taiāpure The Māori committee, marae committee or the kaitiaki with responsibility for the mataitai.*
- *The tangāta kaitiaki / tiaki appointed by the provisions of the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998 for the relevant rohe moana. Non-commercial Māori fisheries*

D.1.4 Managing effects on places of significance to tāngata whenua

Resource consent for an activity may generally only be granted if the adverse effects from the activity on the values of places of significance to tāngata whenua in the coastal marine area and water bodies are avoided, remedied or mitigated so they are no more than minor.

D.1.5 Places of significance to tāngata whenua

For the purposes of this Plan, a place of significance to tāngata whenua:
1) is in the coastal marine area, or in a water body, where the values which may be impacted are related to any of the following:

a) soil conservation, or
b) quality and quantity of water, or
c) aquatic ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, and

2) is:

a) a Historic Heritage resource, or
b) ancestral land, water, site, wāhi tapu, or other taonga, and

3) is either:

a) a Site or Area of Significance to Tāngata Whenua, which is a single resource or set of resources identified, described and contained in a mapped location, or
b) a landscape of significance to tāngata whenua, which is a collection of related resources identified and described within a mapped area, with the relationship between those component resources identified, and

4) has one or more of the following attributes:

a) historic associations, which include but are not limited to:

i. stories of initial migration, arrival and settlement, or
ii. patterns of occupation, including permanent, temporary or seasonal occupation, or
iii. the sites of conflicts and the subsequent peace-making and rebuilding of iwi or hapū, or
iv. kinship and alliances built between areas and iwi or hapū, often in terms of significant events, or
v. alliances to defend against external threats, or
vi. recognition of notable tupuna, and sites associated with them, or

b) traditional associations, which include but are not limited to:

i. resource use, including trading and trading routes between groups (for instance – with minerals such as matā/obsidian), or
ii. traditional travel and communication linkages, both on land and sea, or
iii. areas of mana moana for fisheries and other rights, or
iv. use of landmarks for navigation and location of fisheries grounds, or
v. implementation of traditional management measures, such as rāhui or tohatoha (distribution), or

c) cultural associations, which include but are not limited to:

i. the web of whanaungatanga41 connecting across locations and generations, or
ii. the implementation of concepts such as kaitiakitanga and manākitanga, with specific details for each whanau, hapū and iwi, or

d) spiritual associations which pervade all environmental and social realities, and include but are not limited to:
i. the role of the atua Ranginui and Papatūānuku, and their offspring such as Tangaroa and Tāne, or
ii. the recognition of places with connection to the wairua of those with us and those who have passed away, or iii. the need to maintain the mauri of all living things and their environment, and

5) must:
a) be based on traditions and tikanga, and
b) be endorsed for evidential purposes by the relevant tāngata whenua community, and
c) record the values of the place for which protection is required, and
d) record the relationship between the individual sites or resources (landscapes only), and
e) record the tāngata whenua groups determining and endorsing the assessment, and
f) geographically define the areas where values can be adversely affected.

Natural Hazards

D.2.3 Climate change and development

Particular regard must be had to the potential effects of climate change on a proposed development requiring consent under this Plan, taking into account the scale, type and design-life of the development proposed and with reference to the latest national guidance and best available climate change projections.

Air Quality

D.3.1 General approach to managing air quality…

10) use national guidance produced by the Ministry for the Environment, including:
a) the Good Practice Guide for Assessing and Managing Odour (Ministry of the Environment, 2016), and
b) the Good Practice Guide for Assessing and Managing Dust (Ministry of the Environment, 2016), and
c) the Good Practice Guide for Assessing Discharges to Air from Industry (Ministry for the Environment, 2016), or

D.3.2 General approach to managing adverse effects of discharges to air

Adverse effects from the discharge of contaminants to air are managed by:
1) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating cross-boundary effects on dust, odour, smoke and spray-sensitive areas from discharges of dust, smoke, agricultural spray drift and odour; and
2) protecting dust, odour, smoke and spray-sensitive areas from exposure to dangerous or noxious levels of gases or airborne contaminants; and
3) recognising that land use change can result in reverse sensitivity effects on existing discharges to air, but existing discharges should be allowed to continue where appropriate.

D.3.4 Dust and odour generating activities

When considering resource consent applications for discharges to air from dust or odour generating activities:
1) require a dust or odour management plan to be produced where there is a likelihood that there will be objectionable or offensive discharges of dust or odour at the boundary of the site where the activity is to take place, or where the activity is likely to cause a breach of the ambient air quality standard for PM10 in Schedule 1 of the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality. The dust or odour management plan must include:
a) a description of dust or odour generating activities, and
b) potentially affected dust-sensitive areas or odour-sensitive areas, and
c) details of good management practices that will be used to control dust or odour to the extent that adverse effects from dust or odour at the boundary of the site are avoided, remedied or mitigated, and
2) take into account any proposed use of low dust generating blasting mediums when assessing the effects of fixed or mobile outdoor dry abrasive blasting or wet abrasive blasting.

Character, Amenity and Heritage

F.1.12 Natural Character, Outstanding Natural Features, Historic Heritage and places of significance to tāngata whenua

General

D.2.1 Rules for managing natural and physical resources
Include rules to manage the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources that:
1) are the most efficient and effective way of achieving national and regional resource management objectives, and
2) are as internally consistent as possible, and
3) use or support good management practices, and
4) minimise compliance costs, and
5) enable use and development that complies with any relevant National Policy Statement, the Regional Policy Statement for Northland and the objectives and policies of this Plan, and
6) focus on effects and, where suitable, use performance standards.

D.2.4 Adaptive management
Regard should be had to the appropriateness of an adaptive management approach where:
1) there is an adequate baseline of information on the receiving environment, and
2) the occurrence of potential adverse effects can be effectively monitored, and
3) thresholds can be set to require mitigation action if more than minor adverse effects arise, and
4) potential adverse effects can be remedied before they become irreversible.

D.2.14 Resource consent duration
When determining the expiry date for a resource consent, have particular regard to:
1) security of tenure for investment (the larger the investment, then generally the longer the consent duration), and
2) the administrative benefits of aligning the expiry date with other resource consents for the same activity in the surrounding area or catchment, and
3) certainty of effects (the less certain the effects, the shorter the consent duration), and
4) whether the activity is associated with Regionally Significant Infrastructure (generally longer consent durations for Regionally Significant Infrastructure), and
5) where the resource consent application is to re-consent an activity, the applicant's past compliance with the conditions of any previous resource consent (significant previous non-compliance should generally result in a shorter duration).

D.2.15 Recognising other plans and strategies

When considering a resource consent application have regard to issues, uses, values, objectives and outcomes identified in an operative plan or strategy adopted by the Regional Council that has followed a consultation process carried out in accordance with the consultative principles and procedures of the Local Government Act 2002, to the extent that the content of this Plan or strategy has a bearing on the resource management issues of the region.