

Appendix I

Natural character policies in The Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki

POLICIES ON NATURAL CHARACTER

POLICIES

Policy One: Preservation of natural character

Recognition and provision will be made for the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and its protection for inappropriate subdivision, use and development. In determining the natural character of the coastal environment, matters to be considered will include:

- *degree of modification from a natural state;*
- *the amenity values of the environment, which collectively give the coastal environment its natural character with particular emphasis on landscapes, seascapes and landforms and visual and aural amenity value;*
- *the degree to which the coastal environment contributes to the region's heritage values and to an appreciation of the history of the Taranaki region;*
- *the degree to which the coastal environment provides for the continued functioning of ecological and physical processes including marine ecosystems, typical or representative of the region;*
- *the natural quality of water and air; natural biodiversity and productivity and the intrinsic value of ecosystems;*
- *the characteristics of special spiritual, historical or cultural significance to tangata whenua;*
- *the degree of significance of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna; and*
- *the degree of integration of human use, development and subdivision with the above components.*

Policy Two: Appropriate subdivision, use and development

The protection of the natural character of the coastal environment shall be achieved by having regard to the following criteria in determining appropriate subdivision, use and development of the coastal environment:

- *the degree and significance of actual or potential adverse effects on the natural character of the coastal environment, including cumulative effects, and the efficacy of measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate such effects;*
- *the extent to which the subdivision, use and development recognise and provide for the relationship of tangata whenua and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga;*
- *the need for subdivision, use and development in the coastal environment and any available alternatives;*
- *the degree to which the subdivision, use or development will avoid adverse effects at alternative non-coastal locations;*
- *the degree of existing modification of the coastal environment from its natural character;*
- *the degree to which the subdivision, use or development will be threatened by, or will contribute to, the occurrence of natural hazards, particularly coastal erosion;*
- *the degree to which the subdivision, use or development can be accommodated near existing developments and in spatially compact forms and the extent of further modification of the natural character of the coastal environment through sprawling and sporadic development; and*
- *the benefits to the community of the use or development of the coastal marine area.*