

UPPER HUTT CITY DISTRICT

LANDSCAPE STUDY

2018



Isthmus.

Acknowledgments

This Landscape Study Report has been prepared by Isthmus Group Ltd for the Upper Hutt City Council.

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Disclaimers

This purpose of the landscape study is to provide an assessment of the Upper Hutt City Districts outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes under Part II of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement. This report combines a technical assessment and input and review of values to tangata whenua by representatives of Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko O Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui) and ecology matters by Wildlands Consultants Ltd.

The findings of this assessment will be used as the basis for subsequent consultation with landowners, key stakeholders and the wider community. Once finalised the landscapes and features identified will be used as the basis for the development of landscape maps and a strategic landscape planning framework within the operative District Plan.

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Overview

The main body of this report documents the technical assessment of the Upper Hutt City Districts' (District) landscapes and the review carried out to finalise the recommendations, following feedback from the Upper Hutt City Council project team (Council project team), Wildland ecology consultants and representatives from mana whenua; Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko O Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui)¹. The purpose of the study is to identify, through a technical assessment, the Districts' outstanding natural features and landscapes (ONFL) and special amenity landscapes (SAL) under Part II of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the operative Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

The assessment has been carried out to support the Upper Hutt City District Plan (District Plan) review process. The findings of this study will be complemented by the next stage of the assessment and include key stakeholder, community and landowner consultation with further site work. Once finalised the ONFL and SAL identified will be used as the basis for the development of landscape maps and a strategic landscape planning framework within proposed changes to the District Plan.

The **Introduction** of this report outlines the purpose, RMA context, scope and overall methodology used in the assessment. The method used acknowledges the natural science, sensory and shared and recognised components of landscape and the best practice guidance provided by the Environment Court in the identification of factors or attributes that contribute to value or significance². The approach used is consistent with the assessment framework provided in the RPS, as detailed in **Appendix 1** and required under the RMA .

Part 1 provides an overview of the physical dimension of the Upper Hutt City landscapes; the natural and cultural elements, patterns and processes that underpin and continue to shape them and the characteristics of the existing natural, heritage and management and built environment. This overview establishes a robust basis for the identification of unique landscape character areas and associated factors that contribute to landscape values.

Part 2 identifies and describes 19 broad landscape character areas, as defined by patterns of landform, landcover and landuse: Pinehaven Valley; Eastern Hutt Hills; Mt Marua Hills; Whitemans Valley; Wallaceville Swamp; Mangaroa Valley; Rimutaka Ranges; Tararua Ranges; Akatarawa Valley; Whatatikei Hills; Moonshine Valley; Hutt River Terraces; Belmont Hills; Western Escarpment; Hutt Valley; Emerald Hill; Te Marua Valley; Kaitoke Valley; and, Remutaka Pass. Desktop review of a wide range of Graphic Information System data (GIS data), digital and printed documents³ and field work, to publicly accessible areas, were used to identify the character areas and to provide an objective description of their key characteristics. The character study is an analysis tool, used to help understand the Districts' landscapes in their entirety.

1 Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui are mana whenua of the Upper Hutt city District; as confirmed through Statutory Acknowledgements in Treaty of Waitangi Settlement claim process. Part 1 of the RMA defines mana whenua as the customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu in an identified area.

2 In particular, the study addresses factors generally accepted to be relevant in an assessment of landscape significance (and forming the basis of RPS policy guidance) - known as the 'WESI criteria', as documented in the Environment Court Case: *Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council*, C180/99, page 49 (original reference Handbook of Environmental Law 2004).

3 This included a review of the broader scale, Lower and Upper Hutt, *Landscape Character Description Study* carried out in 2012 by Greater Wellington Regional Council. A full list of the main data sources, used in the study, are set out in **Appendix 2**.

Part 3 describes the methodology used to identify factors contributing to landscape values in each landscape character area and the process used to distinguish ONFL and SAL. Factors considered, are in line with the RPS and Environment Court assessment guidance and relate to all three components of landscape, known to generate values and significance. For example, regular sightings of an endangered species in a landscape will contribute to values linked to rarity, ecological functioning and shared and recognised values in the scientific community. In this technical study, these factors were identified through field work to publicly accessible areas and through the review of a wide range of printed and digital sources of information (including geological texts, past and recent ecological assessments, District focused print and web publications, marketing and place making media or symbols, local artwork and museum displays) as well as the application of accepted aesthetic theories and the findings of relevant landscape perception studies; as discussed further in **Appendix 2**.

Potential or 'candidate' ONFL and SAL areas were first identified where a 'cluster' of factors contributing to landscape values were identified. Draft maps and assessment record sheets were then developed to identify the physical extent of the landscape and the factors (characteristics of the area) that contribute to their natural science, sensory and shared or recognised values; under the RPS and best practice guidance.

Following this general 'significance study' phase and further desktop and site work, the map boundaries were refined - to exclude areas likely to detract from the overall evaluation and include other areas with important values. The process used to identify feature and landscape boundaries, by desktop study, is also described and acknowledges zones of transition and boundary 'blur'; where, in reality, the edge of a landscape may not be easily distinguished on the ground, due to gradual changes in landform, landcover and landuse.

As a further tool of analysis, the natural science, sensory and shared or recognised factors were then evaluated on a 7 point relative scale; to distinguish their significance in the context of the entire District.

Finally, ONFL and SAL areas were identified through an overall evaluation, using the summative 'tests' required under the RPS; bringing the component parts of the landscape 'back together', to inform an integrated assessment of significance.

The limitations of the technical approach used in this assessment and the specific methodology employed are further discussed. This discussion reiterates the need for wider consultation following the technical assessment, with landowners, key stakeholder and community consultation, including further fieldwork; to further refine the landscape assessment.

Part 4 profiles the outstanding natural features and landscapes identified in the technical assessment, providing a map and tabulated assessment record sheet for each landscape area identified.

Three ONFL are identified in the Upper Hutt District: Rimutaka Ranges, Tararua Ranges and Akatarawa Forest.

Part 5 profiles the special amenity landscapes identified in the assessment, providing a map and tabulated assessment record sheet for each landscape area identified.

Five SAL are identified in the Upper Hutt District: Remutaka Pass, Akatarawa Pass, Cannon Point, Te Awakairangi - Hutt River and the Eastern Hills.

Consultation and review processes used to finalise this report

Feedback and review from the Council project team during the study and at scheduled milestones was used to help finalise this report. Input from mana whenua, through Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui representatives, provided feedback on the ‘candidate’ areas and specific shared and recognised tangata whenua values that need to be considered in the evaluation of ONFL and SAL; as required under the RPS. In addition, Wildlands Consultants provided technical review of the Natural Environment section of the report, the description of character areas and identified ONFL and SAL; as relevant to the discipline of ecology.

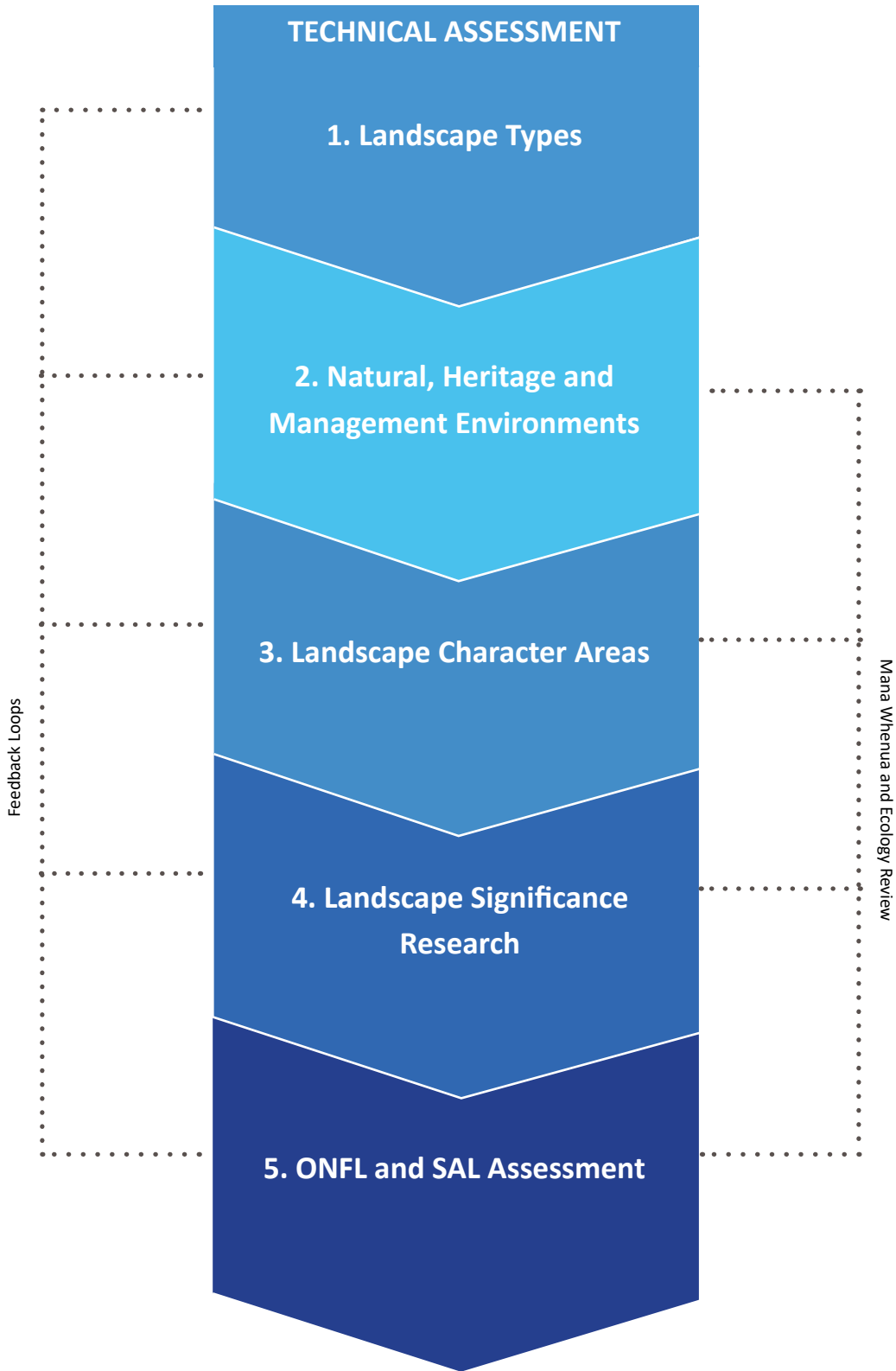
This process added further depth to the understanding of both the natural science and shared and recognised aspects of landscapes in the District and helped to confirm the findings of the technical study.

Next steps

Following the technical study, the findings will be reviewed through consultation with key stakeholders, the wider community and landowners. This may result in further factors being identified that are relevant to the assessment of both landscape boundaries and their overall significance. The consultation process may also result in changes to the overall evaluation of landscapes - as SAL or ONFL - and could identify other important landscapes, particularly where shared and recognised factors play a big part in landscape values and require consultation to capture fully. The next stage of the Significant Natural Area Study (to be completed in 2018) - looking at both public and private land - may also help to refine the indigenous vegetation values identified and could provide further information relevant to boundary definitions; where landcover changes are an important contributor to the edges of a landscape . Once confirmed, through the technical and consultation process, the findings of the landscape assessment will be progressed through a Plan Change process including submissions and RMA hearings, as required to confirm their inclusion District Plan.



Hutt Valley viewed from Wallaceville Road. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd



Introduction

The purpose of the landscape study is to provide a technical assessment of the Upper Hutt City's outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes under Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the RPS. This assessment has included a technical study, based on desktop analysis, field work to publicly accessible areas, and review of 'values to tangata whenua', carried out by Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui and ecology matters by Wildlands Consultants Ltd. The findings of this study will be used as the basis for consultation with landowners, key stakeholders and the wider community with further field work and desktop analysis used to help confirm landscape boundaries. Once finalised, the ONFL and SAL identified will be used to develop planning maps and a strategic planning framework for a proposed change to the District Plan.

Assessment Context

The District

Upper Hutt City District covers some 54,000ha, supports a population of 40,179 with a moderate growth rate in population (4.4%), compared to other territorial authorities (2013 Census). The District's identity is closely associated with its landscapes and the dynamic natural and cultural processes that continue to shape them, from the Remutaka Pass⁴ in the north east to the Taitā Gorge in the south west the District is characterised by a sequence of valleys and basins and defining rivers, outlier hills and encircling ranges. Unique patterns of geomorphology, making access and settlement more difficult, have meant later periods of landscape change, compared to other parts of the region, and, combined with continued public land ownership over more than 60% of the District's total land area, have had a distinct organising influence on past and present patterns of landuse and landcover.

Although affected by flood hazards, most of the District's population and areas of business are located near the Hutt River (Te Awakairangi) and in close proximity to the main infrastructure networks of State Highway 2 (SH2) and the Wairarapa rail line (Wairarapa Line). Rural residential and rural communities have been retained in the upper Mangaroa River valley, the Hutt River valleys east of Emerald Hill or are associated with the Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Rivers and the Moonshine Valley in the Pautahanui Stream catchment. Rural residential communities, transitioning to higher densities, are located in the lower reaches of the Mangaroa River including the 'Gabites' block, identified for possible urban expansion⁵. Other potential greenfield sites identified by Council include the residential 'Guildford' block, located along the south western hills behind Pinehaven, and the Wallaceville Structure Plan area, a former agricultural research station, to the east of the Trentham Racecourse.

Productive landuse and larger lots are now limited to narrow river valleys and the foothills in more remote areas of the District. These areas are characterised by small holding and specialist pastoral farming along with varied horticultural crops, typical of the cold microclimates in enclosed areas such as Whitemans and Moonshine Valley. Through the main sections of the Hutt River Valley, from the Taita Gorge to the Te Marua Lakes lookout, areas of land not developed or ear marked for urban growth include the Rimutaka Prison site, Trentham Military Camp and a significant network of recreation based open space associated with the Trentham Racecourse, Golf Courses, parks and reserves and sports

⁴ Remutaka is the original Māori name for the area. It commemorates the edge (remu) of Haunui-a-Nanaia's cape falling to the ground (taka) when he first viewed and named Wairarapa. Source: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2015-12/remutaka-pass-now-official>

⁵ Land Use Strategy 2016-2043: Upper Hutt City Council

fields. Remnants of the once expansive lowland - kahikatea, totara, tawa - river plain forests are now associated with these undeveloped open space areas and most lowland riparian environments are now highly modified and feature very few wetland habitats, once common in the District. Remnant and regenerating indigenous vegetation also feature along the foothills and steep escarpments directly above the main rivers and on steeper land in rural properties. In the east of the District regenerating areas are characterised by mānuka scrub, lowland beech and kamahi forest. To the west of the Hutt River valley podocarp (rimu, miro, mataī and tōtara) - tawa forest is more typical.

Most of the steeplands of the District, including the dissected peneplain hill country and more pronounced Tararua and Rimutaka ranges, are largely uninhabited and in public ownership. Over 60% of the Districts land area is managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) as part of the Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forest Park and the Kaitoke Regional Park with a small section of the Department of Conservation (DOC) Tararua Forest Park located inside the District boundary alongside the Akatarawa Road. Well known for the contribution these areas make to the biodiversity of the North Island and New Zealand, with habitats ranging from foothill forests to alpine areas above the tree line, these uninhabited areas also have a crucial role to play in ensuring water quality and supply for the region and in minimising flood hazards. Combined with the publicly accessible areas along the rivers and their margins, managed by GWRC and UHCC, these steep land parks represent a significant recreation and scenic resource for Upper Hutt residents and visitors to the District.



Hutt River viewed from Riverside Terraces. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Landscape matters and the Resource Management Act

Landscape is not defined specifically by the RMA, however best practice assessment and relevant case law guidance can be drawn on to define 'landscape' as a subset of the environment⁶; a geographical area of varying scale that can be described and is valued by the community as a result of natural science, sensory and shared and recognised attributes⁷. A landscapes physical (natural science) factors include its landforms, vegetation patterns and landuse, resulting from both natural and cultural processes over time. Landscape values and the significance of the area results, however, from how these natural science factors are perceived and experienced by people, including cultural norms of aesthetic values - what most people would consider beautiful or attractive - and what contributes to memory (due to sensory factors) and from the associations, meanings and stories (shared and recognised factors) that are connected with a landscape.

For example, the Hutt River, Te Awakairangi has a strong physical presence within the District as a distinct 'landscape' path and physical barrier that contributes to threatened lowland habitats and ecological corridors up into the hills and ranges. Its significance is reinforced by the picturesque and natural character qualities it creates, its dynamic and varied flows, by the meanings it has for mana whenua and as result of associations with important historical transport routes and continued water supply, events, settlement and generations of recreational use. That is: natural science, sensory and shared and recognised factors all contribute to what makes up a landscape and its values; why it matters to people.

This interwoven or three part framework for landscape assessment is consistent with the definition accepted by the Environment Court and developed in the Canterbury Regional Landscape Study 1993, as outlined in a Planning Tribunal decision (W114/94) .

"So landscape is not restricted to the visual resource. It is both physical and perceptual. The physical resource in any area is expressed in the landscape. In addition, each area is perceived and experienced.

*The values people place on these areas are subjective, although many are widely shared, supported by research or already formally recognised by the community...Landscape as a human experience combines both aesthetic values and other values which humans attribute to landscape. Used in this sense landscape is not only the physical appearance of land, but also the subjective baggage each person carries with them - what they know, what they imagine and how they are disposed."*⁸

This assessment framework is also consistent with the 'amended Pigeon Bay' or WESI criteria⁹ and RPS policy guidance used to identify outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes. The RPS provides further explanation as to the subset of factors to be considered in an ONFL and SAL assessment, as described in more detail in Part 3 and Appendix 1, and in line with case law guidance. Namely, *natural science* factors to be considered include representativeness, research and

⁶ Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council, C180/99, page 45

⁷ Also referred to as physical, perceptual and associative factors and as biophysical elements, patterns and processes, sensory qualities and spiritual, cultural and social associations, including activities and meanings. Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council, C180/99, page 45 (original reference Handbook of Environmental Law 2004). NZILA (2010) Best Practice Note: Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management 10.1

⁸ Campbell and Ors v Cross Air Spread Ltd, Southland District Council and Walker, W114/94 (original reference Handbook of Environmental Law 2004)

⁹ The amended Pigeon Bay Criteria include but are not restricted to: the natural science factors - the geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components of the landscape; its aesthetic values including memorability and naturalness; its expressiveness (legibility): how obviously the landscape demonstrates the formative processes leading to it; transient values: occasional presence of wildlife; or its values at certain times of the day or of the year; whether the values are shared and recognised; its value to tangata whenua; its historical associations. Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council, C180/99, page 49 (original reference Handbook of Environmental Law 2004).

education, rarity and ecosystem functioning. *Sensory factors* to be addressed include aesthetic values due to coherence, vividness and naturalness as well as expressiveness and transient values. *Shared and recognised* factors relate to parts of the landscape that are widely known, recognised and contribute to local identity, that are valued by tangata whenua and result from historical associations.

In assessing the significance of these factors, in order to identify ONFL and SAL, case law and best practice guidance directs a critical task of reassembling, interpreting and evaluating the landscape or feature as a whole. In other words, while the three part framework is useful in terms of analysis, there is a convergence of 'evidence' required, which recognises that these factors are interwoven and that a landscape or feature, and its significance, results from an overall evaluation; is more than the sum of its parts.

ONFL and SAL are addressed under Part 2 of the RMA.

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Part 2 of the RMA, Section 6, Matters of national importance states that:

"In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance. [including]

b) "the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:"

In achieving the purpose of the RMA and given their status as a matter of national importance, the RPS policies (see Appendix 1) states that District and Regional Plans *shall* identify ONFL.

Special Amenity Landscapes

Special amenity landscapes are considered in Part 2 of the Act Section 7, Other matters. Their status is in particular, relates to Section 7c) where:

"In achieving the purpose of this Act all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to -

c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values."

Further direction is provided through the Interpretation section of the Act where 'Amenity' is defined as:

"those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes."

The RPS policies (see Appendix 1) do not require the identification of SAL's. As an 'other matter', under the RMA, the RPS states that District and Regional Plans *may* identify SAL's.

In practice, the interwoven factors that contribute to landscape values in ONFL and SAL mean that they can also have a role to play in helping to *provide* and *have particular regard* for other Section 6 and 7 matters, such as:

"Section 6a) the preservation of natural character of the coastal environment , wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Section 7f) the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment."

Identifying Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Special Amenity Landscapes

The tests required to evaluate ONFL and SAL, are discussed in more detail in Part 3. In summary, this requires an overall evaluation of the feature or landscape, as more than the sum of their *natural science, sensory and shared and recognised factor* parts, against tests established by case law and best practice guidance in the context of a particular District. Under the RPS:

An ONFL is:

“a) exceptional or out of the ordinary; and

b) that its natural components dominate over the influence of human activity “

An SAL has either:

a) highly valued but not clearly exceptional landscape values, in an area where the natural components dominate; or

b) highly valued including exceptional landscape values, in an area where the modification of landscape by human activity is a dominant influence on landscape character. “

Defining Features and Landscapes

A feature, as the term implies, although not specifically defined in the RMA, is a discrete element or group of elements within a landscape such as a particular rock outcrop. Where topographic contours can normally be used to distinguish the edge of a feature, the edge of a landscape may be drawn from the combined analysis of patterns of landform, landcover and landuse.

A process for determining the boundaries of outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes is described further in Part 3 of this report. Although distinct boundaries can be drawn using a consistent and best practice methodology, and are required to develop planning maps, these are assessed at the scale of a district, and in a technical study, through desktop analysis and field work to publicly accessible areas. While underlying patterns of landform are used as the primary basis to distinguish boundaries, these can be ‘blurred’ by a gradual change and dominant landcover and landuse characteristics, creating a ‘zone of transition’. Further field work to ‘ground truth’ boundaries will occur in the next stage of the assessment but is not without limitations. Importantly:

- The range of factors (natural science, sensory and shared and recognised), that need to be considered in a district wide assessment, may not necessarily immediately evident on the ground or at a finer scale of assessment.
- Access and the availability of appropriate vantage points often limit the value of site work to particular properties – particularly where there are few locations within the property from which a broader view of the landscape and its edges can be gained.
- The scale of the assessment requires an overall judgement to be made as to the significance of the landscape. Individual properties, or boundary conditions do not need to meet the test to be identified as an ONFL or SAL, rather, they must form part of that landscape or feature and make a contribution to its significance.

Scope

Environment Court guidance requires the scope or spatial context of an ONFL and SAL assessment to be that of the District boundary; for the assessment to identify landscapes and features that are of significance to the Upper Hutt City District. The Environment Court has determined that:

“...what is outstanding can in our view only be assessed - in relation to the district plan-on a district-wide basis because the sum of the district’s landscapes are the only immediate comparison that the territorial authority has. In the end of course, this is an ill defined restriction”¹⁰.

This means that ONFL and SAL are assessed in context, recognising that there are varied factors that make landscapes and features important depending on the frame of reference. What might be considered exceptional, or highly valued in one district, may not be the same in another. Along the boundary of a district this may result in differences of evaluation. For example, where an area is identified as an SAL in a neighbouring district but fails to meet that test in the context of the Upper Hutt City District.

The RMA requires District Plans to give effect to the RPS. This means that the methodology used in a district-wide evaluation needs to be consistent with any ONFL and SAL assessment framework provided in the RPS. This means that the factors to be considered, and the overall evaluation tests, must be consistent with RPS policies, as are detailed in Appendix 1 and discussed in more detail in Part 3. However, as there are distinct differences in context between a regional and a district assessment, both in terms of the scale of the geographical area and purpose (to inform and assist the implementation of a Regional Plan versus a District Plan), the landscapes and features identified in a district and regional assessment may also differ. These differences are likely to be more marked when a particular district is assessed as having very few or a large number of features or landscapes that are of significance to the region. And, with a finer grain of analysis inevitably used in a district assessment, it can also be expected that the boundaries are likely to vary slightly, even where the two assessments generally agree as to the location ONFL and SAL areas.

Technical Study Approach

This assessment has followed an ‘expert’ or technical approach, with selected key stakeholder input, as described in more detail in Part 3. Fieldwork and a wide range of existing digital and printed sources of information have been used to: provide an overview of the Upper Hutt District land types; identify and describe the patterns of landform, landuse and landcover in character areas; identify factors contributing to landscape values in each character area and; identify and evaluate specific features and landscapes that can be classified as ONFL and SAL under the RPS.

To assist the following consultation phase of the study, the technical assessment provides mapped boundaries for each ONFL and SAL identified and an assessment record sheet summarising the natural science, sensory and shared and recognised factors that contribute to its significance.

This approach combines **qualitative** and **quantitative** techniques of assessment, including consultation with mana whenua and ecology review. The next stage of the assessment will provide for consultation with landowners, key stakeholders and the wider community, as is anticipated in the RPS, to confirm the ONFL and SAL progressed to a proposed Plan Change.

¹⁰ Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council, C180/99, 5 NZED 85 at p 49

Explanatory Note

Qualitative methods of landscape assessment are essentially descriptive and help capture community perceptions, including sense of place values, historical associations, and cultural significance. Secondary sources of information can be used as qualitative assessment tools, such as historical literature or documents that record social, cultural, economic and ecological interests, artwork and iconographic symbols. Direct engagement with key stakeholders and the wider community, through open days, workshops, hui and site visits, adds authenticity and credibility to a qualitative assessment process, where the factors contributing to 'intangible' values and their significance may not be well documented.

Quantitative methods seek to rank or assess landscape values using numbers or grades. This method is largely driven by a reductive or factor by factor approach, where the landscape is 'unpicked' and analysed in parts. This provides a methodical and transparent approach, and is a further tool for analysis and identification of ONFL AND SAL. One disadvantage of this method is that it may be more difficult to give weight to the 'intangible' or more subjective qualities of landscape that are valued, such as sense of place and mana whenua connections. These values make particular landscapes important to the local communities, but may not be easily detected from an outsider's viewpoint or documented in existing data and secondary sources. In addition, while a focus on the detail and relative ranking of each part of the landscape is a useful part of the assessment, the overall evaluation is not a quantitative process. Because landscape and its significance is more than the 'sum of its parts', it is not considered best practice to 'add up' or to rely entirely on relevant significance scores in the identification of ONFL and SAL areas. As further detailed in Part 3, following detailed analysis, there is a matter of overall judgement, and a process of reassembling, interpreting and evaluating the landscape or feature as a whole to identify whether or not it meets the summative tests required to be identified as an ONFL or SAL; as set out in the RPS.

Part 1 The Upper Hutt Landscapes

This part of the report provides an overview of Upper Hutt's landform, landcover and landuse patterns that underpin and continue to shape the District's landscapes. This analysis provides a 'broad-scale' description of key landscape types and the District's unique natural, built, managed and heritage environment.

In Part 2 this overview is used to help define and describe distinct character areas from which the components of landscape - natural science, sensory and shared and recognised factors - are more readily identified and are connected to a particular feature or landscape. Together, this broad-scale and character area analysis is then used to identify landscape areas and features of greater significance; 'candidates' to be further investigated and evaluated to determine whether or not they meet the tests to be identified as ONFL and SAL.

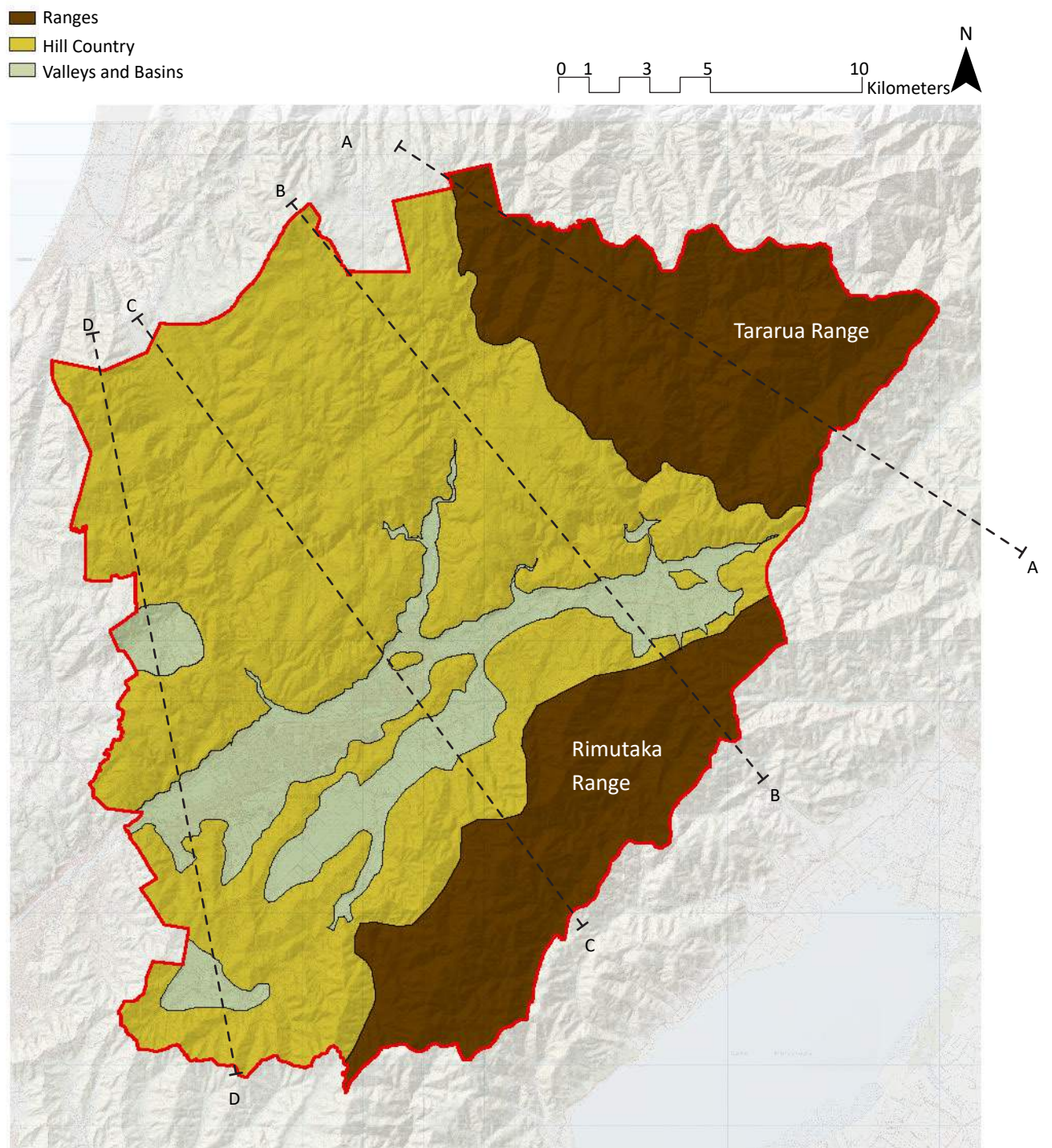
Landscape Types

The natural and cultural (built and heritage) patterns of the Upper Hutt are underpinned by processes of land formation resulting from climate change, historically through periods of glaciation, uplift and folding along primary and secondary fault lines and hydrology; where rivers and streams have cut down through steeplands and deposited material in lowland areas. The landscapes of Upper Hutt today are broadly defined by a series of low lying basins or valleys with edges of uplifted near-vertical escarpments and dissected peneplain or outlier hills separated by rivers from a backdrop of steeper ranges. The main Tararua and Rimutaka ranges are characterised by SW-NE trending ridgelines, following tectonic activity along fault lines, with named peaks marking much of the District's boundary.

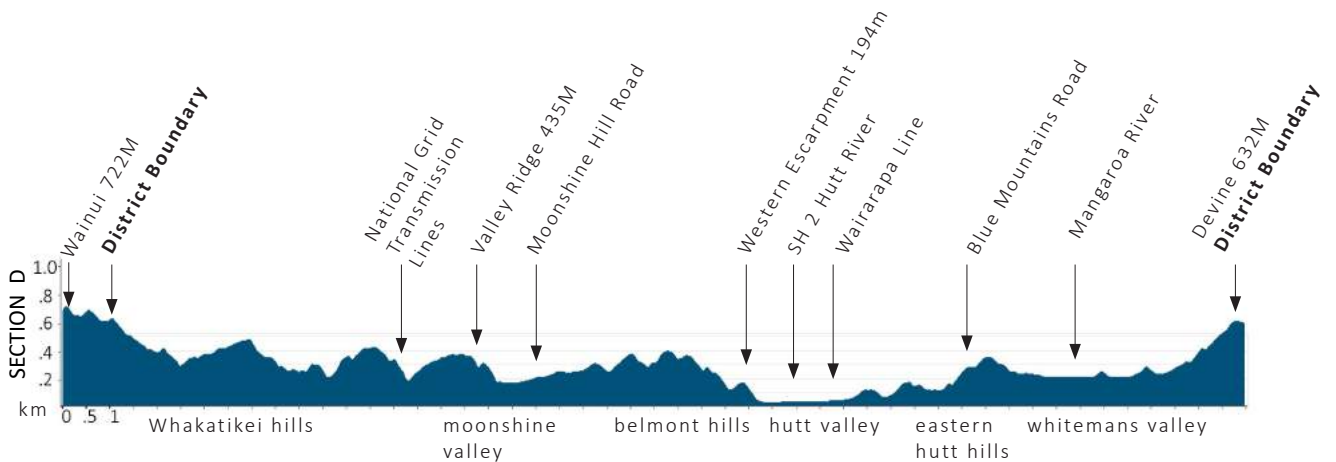
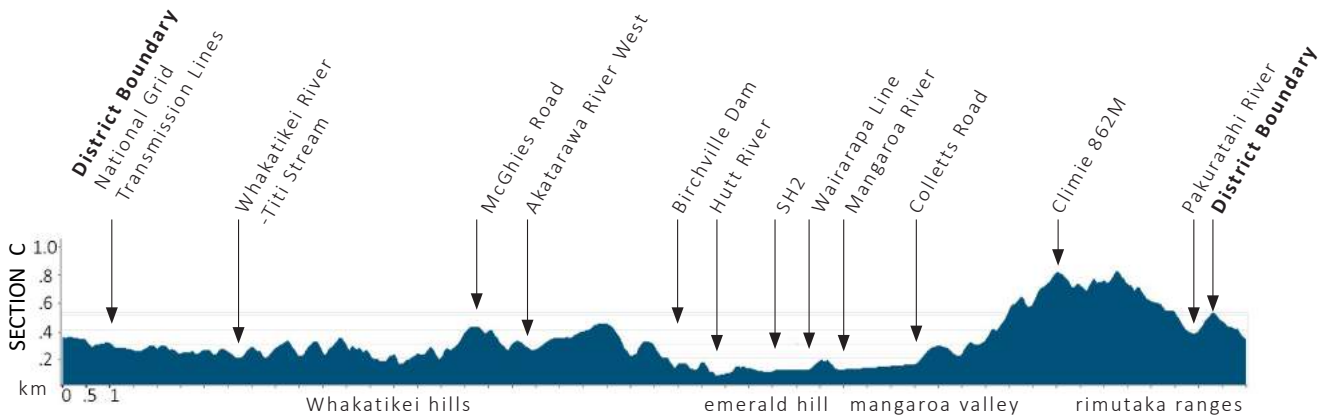
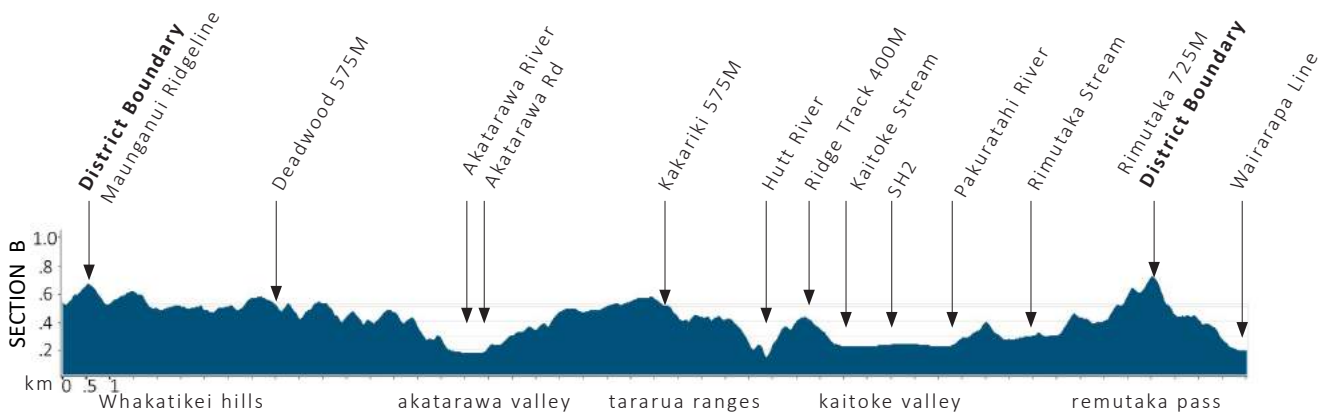
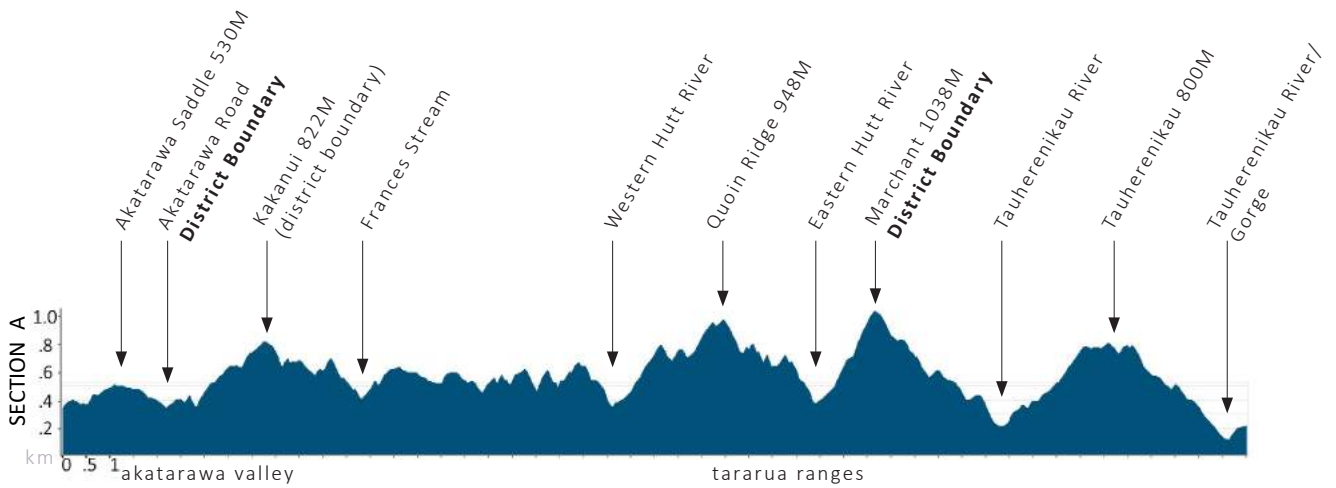
The Wellington Fault extends from Sinclair Head on Wellington's south coast and follows along the edge of SH2 through the Upper Hutt to the 'Brown Owl' saddle at Emerald Hill before it splits along the Eastern Te Awakairangi River and the Tauherenikau River, both in the Tararua Ranges. Tectonic movement to the west of the fault has created the steep incline of the river escarpment and, above this, the buckled and folded forms of an ancient peneplain (uplifted sea floor) known as the Belmont and Whakatikei Hills. Peneplain landforms are also characteristic of the lower foothills of the Tararua Ranges above Te Marua Basin. Downward movement to the east of the Wellington Fault has formed a series of valleys and basins separated by buckled higher/ outlier hill areas now able to be distinguished as Upper Hutt, Te Marua, Kaitoke, Mangaroa and Moonshine. These valleys have been further shaped by hydrology and tilting of four main river systems - Te Awakairangi or the Hutt River, the Whakatikei, Mangaroa and Pakuratahi River- and, combined with glacial periods shattering and eroding rocks substrate, significant gravel deposits and broader valley areas. Shifts in hydrological patterns due to ongoing tectonic activity, flattening or, at times, reversing flows in these catchments resulted in significant wetland areas historically, although most have been drained to convert to farming. Tectonic activity combined with gravel deposits have also meant variation in river depths over the past 200 years with the most marked change post 1855 Wairarapa earthquake reducing use of the Hutt River as a transport route - once navigable up to Te Marua.

Together these processes have come together to define several unique geological features in the District of regional significance, including: a post ice age Quaternary Swamp in the Black Stream Basin; well defined alluvial terraces above the Hutt River, now known as the Riverstone Terraces; and the Harcourt Park faulted terraces and weathered rock outcrops at Radiata Grove, from a warmer climatic period.

The broad landscape types resulting from these land formation processes are illustrated in the figure and cross sections below, with boundaries defined, for the purpose of further analysis, by underlying topography and marked changes in contours. Distinct boundaries have been drawn to assist in the understanding of broad landscape patterns and the identification of landscape character areas. However, more gradual changes in landform, and transition from valley to hill country and hill country to ranges, are likely to be perceived on the ground.



Broad Landscape Types and Topographic Sections



NORTHWEST

SOUTHEAST

Natural Environment

Patterns and processes of land formation in the District are characterised by tectonic geomorphology and the action of rivers, and combined with Upper Hutt's temperate location, create a unique natural environment that underpins its landscapes and the factors that generate values.

Climate

Upper Hutt's climate is wetter and has greater range of temperatures than Lower Hutt or Wellington as it is encircled by ranges and outlier hills creating a series of distinct valleys and basins that restrict air flow. Its climate is not influenced by the moderating effects of the sea. Transient factors such as snow, ice, frost and fog are more often experienced in the District's landscapes, as well as hotter summer temperatures with less windy conditions at lower altitudes, influencing the range of exotic and indigenous plants that help characterise the area.

Soils

Soils of the District are either thin and highly leached, almost nonexistent on the tops of the ranges, or laid down by the action of rivers and streams in the basin and valley floors. These soils are the most fertile, where the productive landscapes are located, and where tectonic activity has reversed drainage patterns, featuring pockets of peat soils such as in the Wallaceville Swamp in the Mangaroa Valley. Loess deposits (wind blown dust from glacial activity) and volcanic ash (from the Taupo eruption) have influenced the soils along the western hills and typical plant communities. Erosion and rock fall are also typical of the steep slopes along the ranges, where the greywacke bedrock is fractured by temperature changes and ongoing tectonic activity.

Freshwater

Rivers and streams in the District contribute to the Te Awakairangi - Hutt River - catchment or, in Moonshine Valley, the Pautahanui catchment which flows into the Porirua harbour. River habitats in the ranges are largely unmodified and contribute to some of the regions most high value freshwater environments for endangered species of indigenous fish and tuna, and 'set the stage' for habitat values along the Hutt River to the sea. With water catchment areas in the Kaitoke Regional Park and potential areas designated in the Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forest, these environments are also critical to the regions urban areas.

Flax and mānuka wetlands, along the edges of river systems, that were once typical prior to flood path management and drainage for land development, are now rare in the District, as in most other populated areas in New Zealand. Wetland systems, that would have been a common feature of many of the District's lowland landscapes and confined valleys in the hills and ranges, are now generally limited to those identified in the PRNP; in the Akatarawa Forest and the Tararua and by the Geological Society of New Zealand - the Wallaceville peat swamp.

Flooding and other natural hazards

Natural events have had a significant impact on the land types of the District and its landscapes, built through the connection between people and place. Through the early years of both māori and pākehā

contact, flood patterns were critical to initial patterns of settlement and tectonics to the rise and fall of early transport routes along the river - cut short by the 1855 earthquake. Ongoing flood management is also a key driver for the retention of large areas of open space through the main valley and an ongoing constraint to urban development. Combined with the areas tectonic patterns - fault lines that have established south west to north east tending ridgelines and valleys - these hazards have also provided a logical alignment for transportation links to and from the District. For example, SH2 has a natural setting along the majority of its alignment, set to the base of the Wellington fault escarpment, the path of the Hutt River and over the landform 'passes' alongside Emerald Hill, dividing Kaitoke and Te Marua through to the Remutaka saddle.

Vegetation patterns

Patterns of vegetation further distinguish Upper Hutt landscapes, with more than 70% indigenous cover (including all indigenous landcover types - of varying succession) located mainly on the ranges and hills within GW Regional Parks and Forests and on private land adjacent to these areas. With a New Zealand average of 23% indigenous cover, this level of cover is marked, particularly in the north island. Made up of a series of relatively narrow valleys and basins, the indigenous cover is made more prominent by the way it frames and encloses both sides of a typical journey through the District, compared to a backdrop along a coastal plain, as in the Kāpiti Coast District, which also has a high percentage of total indigenous vegetation cover.

Lowland areas in the District, immediately adjacent to Te Awakairangi- the Hutt River- and the Kaitoke basin are part of the Wellington Ecological District.¹¹ Pre-European vegetation comprised extensive kahikatea with flax and wetland areas, tōtara and black beech occurred on slightly dryer gravel mounds and ridges, rimu- northern rata dominant forest covered hill-slopes, and miro rimu/tāwa forest occurred at higher elevations. Today, less than a third of the indigenous vegetation remains within this Ecological District in Upper Hutt City. This predominantly comprises mānuka and kānuka scrub and forest with small areas of black beech on hill slopes.

The main ranges and hill country areas form part of the Tararua Ecological District. The Rimutaka Ranges are characterised by extensive stands of silver beech, hard beech, black beech, some red beech with lowland areas supporting hardwood forests including rātā/kamahahi and isolated podocarps (rimu and tōtara) with mānuka dominant scrub at lower altitudes.

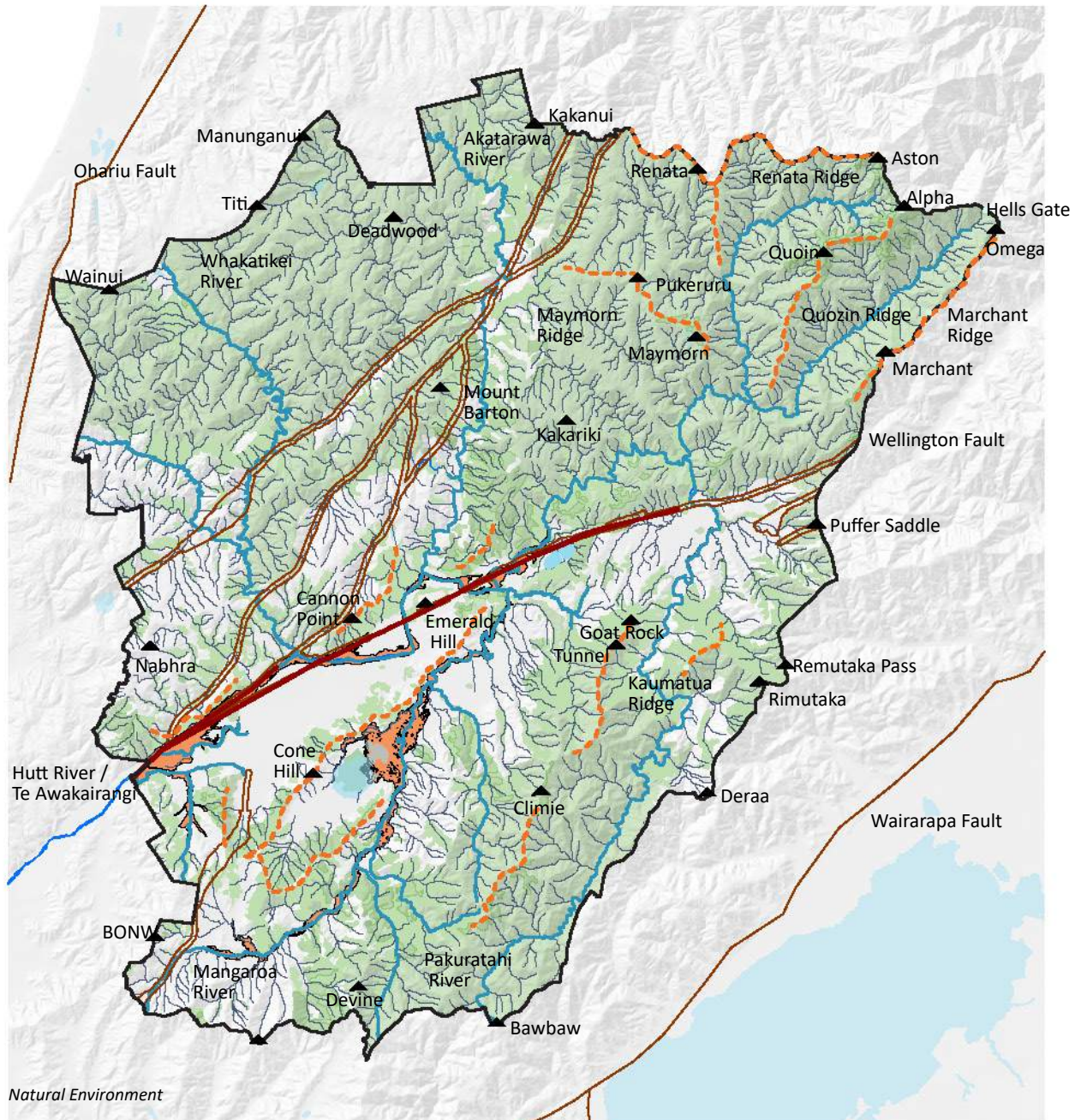
The Tararua range includes small areas of alpine herbfield and tussock land to leatherwood. In montane and subalpine areas silver beech with red beech/kāmahi and northern rātā/kamahahi is dominant and at lower altitudes including the Whakatikei Hills, hard beech, rimu, tōtara, miro and tawa are the main forest species. Original landcover, not impacted by past clearing practices, is more common in the remote and steeper areas of the Tararuas. The main Tararua range, in the Kaitoke Regional Park includes small areas of alpine herbfield and tussock land to leatherwood with montane and subalpine areas featuring silver beech with red beech/kāmahi and northern rātā/kamahahi.

Important both in terms of wayfinding or legibility and identity, together these patterns of geology, hydrology and ecology create a distinct mental map (see **Appendix 2**); of a District with clear boundaries - the encircling ranges, gateways - over saddles and through the Tāita Gorge, pathways - along rivers and valleys, nodes - where rivers and ranges meet, landmarks - named peaks and ridgelines and sub districts - valleys and basins of distinct character.

¹¹ <http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/Ecoregions1.pdf>

- - - Ridgelines- District Plan + Topo Map
- Faultlines
- Streams
- Wetlands/ Lakes
- ▲ Significant Named Peak/Feature
- Flood Zones

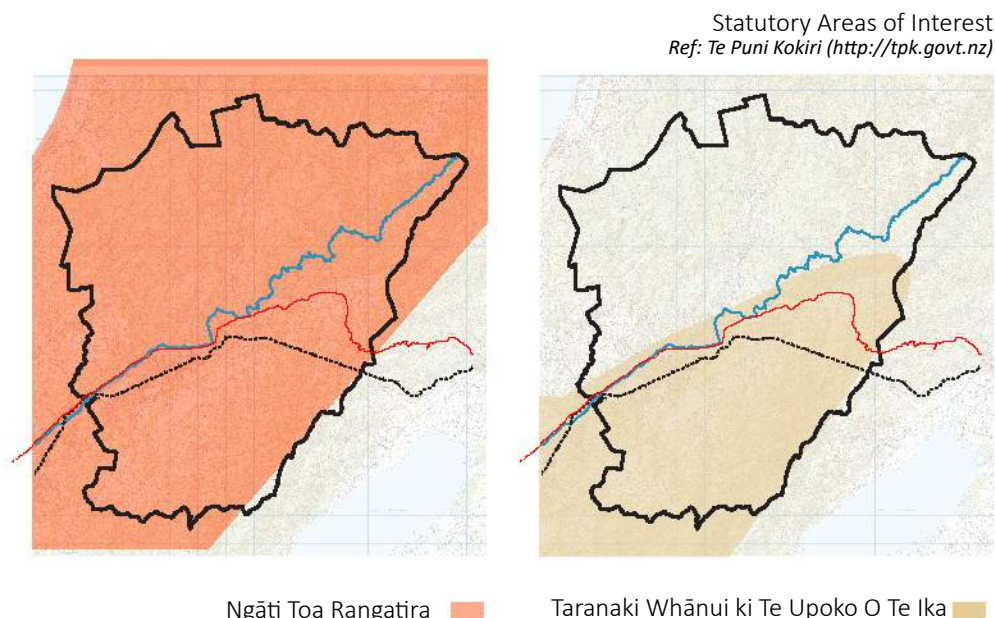
- Indigenous Landcover
 - Broadleaved Indigenous Hardwoods
 - Deciduous Hardwoods
 - Fernland
 - Indigenous Forest- Mānuka and/or Kānuka
 - Sub Alpine Shrubland
 - Tall Tussock Grassland



Heritage Environment

Māori - early years and ongoing connections

The Upper Hutt has a less settled history for Māori, compared to coastal areas of the region, yet diverse associations and values to tangata whenua result from its importance as a transport and trade route, for fresh water and forest based resources and role in historic events; all centred on the Hutt River, Te Awakairangi, *'the water course of greatest value'*¹², now recognised as Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa¹³ and Te Mana o te Wai¹⁴ in GWRC proposed Natural Resource Plan (PNRP). Mythological history also marks strong associations for iwi, where the two taniwha, Ngake and Whaitaitai, forged Awakairangi *'river of food from the sky'*¹⁵ and the Cook Strait when they broke out of a lake to form Wellington Harbour. Prior to the 1855 Wairarapa earthquake, the river was navigable from the harbour, through to the Silverstream area, providing access to the Hutt Valley freshwater, wetland and forest based resources. Trails used for exploration, trade, migration and featuring in historical conflicts, linking the Upper Hutt area to the Wairarapa, Porirua, and Kāpiti Coast, further underpin these connections, and, as they followed easier topography, now feature the Districts main transportation links. These historic trails include: the pass over the Remutaka Saddle, following Rimutaka Stream and Abbots Creek (the general alignment of SH2); a link to Pauatahanui, over what is now known as Haywards Hill (SH58) connecting the area to Porirua and Kāpiti via Transmission Gully and Paekakariki Hill; the Akatarawa River and saddle connection to Kāpiti (now the road to Waikanae); and the trail from Kaitoke Valley via Marchant Ridge to Otaki Forks (now the Southern Crossing tramping track). As 'life lines', these trails are significant to many iwi groups in the region. They also mark, and were critical to, early Pakeha exploration, contact and conflict and settlement in the District.



12 <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/wellington-war/return-to-hutt-valley>

13 Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa are large freshwater and coastal entities from which mana whenua derive their cultural and spiritual identity. <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Plans--Publications/Regional-Plan-Review/Proposed-Plan/Chapter-2-Interpretation.pdf> pg. 20

14 Te Mana o te Wai represents the innate relationship between te hauora o te wai (the health and mauri of water) and te hauora o te taiao (the health and mauri of the environment), and their ability to support each other, while sustaining te hauora o te tāngata (the health and mauri of the people).

15 <https://upperhuttcity.com/arts-culture/our-maori-heritage/>

Place names are a further signal to associations for Māori in the District and often have a story to tell providing information about the values of the area and landscape. For example, Remutaka (historically misspelt as Rimutaka), now the official name for the Pass across the ranges, commemorates the edge (remu) of Haunui-a-Nanaia's cape falling to the ground (taka) when he first viewed and named Wairarapa.¹⁶

The first Māori settlers of the area were Ngai Tara and Ngāti Ira, and their related hapu, who travelled across from the Wairarapa. These tribes descended from the god Rongomai and Whatonga, who captained the Kurahaupo waka to Mahia and the Hawkes Bay, and his son Tara. Tara's name became immortalised in the naming of the Tararua Mountains, derived from the saying Ngā waewae e rua a Tara *'the spanned legs of Tara'*¹⁷ and, Rongomai, in the traditional Māori name for Upper Hutt, Orongomai - the place of Rongomai. Heretaunga, now an established residential area, and sometimes name for the Hutt River, also references these tribes connection to the East Coast; Heretaunga - Hastings. Several Pā sites were established during the Tara era, the most well known being across the river from Te Marua, known as Pā Whakataka. This era (up until the mid 1830's) also brought contact with other Kurahaupo descendants - Rangitane and Ngāti Apa and Ngāti Rangi - and Ngāti Kahungunu, descendants of the Tākitimu canoe, who intermarried with Ngāti Ira and whose rohe now extend from the Wharerata's near Mahia to the Remutaka Pass.

Ngāti Toa Rangatira's connection with the area began in 1819 following expeditions from Kawhia to the south island and this heralded an end to Ngāti Ira's occupation of the area and retreat back to the Wairarapa. Following two heke (migrations) and the defining battle of Waiohua in 1824 on Kāpiti, Ngāti Toa became established in the region, living mainly on the coast and continuing their association in the Hutt Valley through trade and transport and contact with Ngāti Rangatahi (from Taumanaranui), Te Ati Awa, Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama (now known as part of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko O Te Ika¹⁸) who settled in the District. Temporary camps - nohoanga - may have been established by Ngāti Toa during this time as well as possible cultivation grounds in common with Ngāti Tama. In 1844, Te Rauparaha is also reported to have established a camp in the Lower Hutt Valley - outside the District- to support of the Ngāti Tama's chief Te Kaeaea -Taringa Kuri's 'bush line', established to try and distinguish the extent of Pākeha interests and the Port Nicholson Block¹⁹ in the Hutt Valley. This conflict over land rights led to the 'Hutt Valley Campaign' in 1846, under Sir Governor George Grey, with battle sites identified at or near the Boulcott golf course and at Battle Hill (above Pauatahanui, now Battle Hill Forest Park) in Lower Hutt and Taita Gorge. European interests were strengthened in the campaign following the arrest of Te Rauparaha and retreat of Te Rangihātea to the Foxton area.

Taranaki Whānui (Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Tama and Ngāti Mutunga) and migrated to the Wellington region in the 1820's and 30's and settled along the coast as well as in the Hutt Valley and inland to Heretaunga. They established fortified pā sites and kāinga, the most well known being Whakataka (across the river from Te Marua), Haukeretu (in the area now known as Te Haukeretu Park, also known as Māori bank - now the name of the suburb adjacent), and, post European settlement, across the river in what is now known as Totara Park, at Whakatiki (now Poets Park), Mawaihakona (headwaters of the stream in Trentham-Wallaceville) and at Whirinaki (near St Patricks College). With more significant land clearance

16 <https://www.lin.govt.nz/news/2015-12/remutaka-pass-now-official>

17 The name Tara is also immortalised in Te Whanganui a Tara - Wellington Harbour

18 Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika is a collective that comprises people of Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Tama and others including Ngāti Mutunga <http://www.tkm.govt.nz/iwi/taranaki-whanui-ki-whanganui-a-tara/>

19 Taranaki Whānui signed the Port Nicholson Block Deed with William Wakefield of the NZ Land Company in 1839 <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/wellington-war/port-nicholson-purchase>

from the late 1840's, due to early native timber logging and early cart tracks, this period of settlement resulted in established gardens and cultivation grounds around kāinga and pā - village and fortified settlement - and increased trade up and down the river. Notably, during this time, the Ngāti Tama leader Te Kaeaea - Taringa Kuri - had a further period of contact in the District from the 1850's, living at Whirinaki Pā (St Patricks College area) until his death in 1871, aged 117.

Subsequent patterns of settlement, migration and land purchase heralded an end to pā sites and traditional settlement in the Upper Hutt area around the mid 1900's with contemporary marae established elsewhere in the region by both Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui. Taranaki Whānui have continued land interests in the District in a rural block in Kaitoke Valley (managed by the Wellington Tenths Trust) and, through treaty settlement, at Wi Tako Ngatata²⁰ Reserve (managed by the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust- PNT).

With current and increasing Māori population of approximately 15% (2013 Census) in Upper Hutt, continuing associations and tikanga (Māori protocols) are supported by Orongomai mara, on Railway Ave. This urban-based marae was established in 1976 to provide community support for all iwi in Upper Hutt including those away from their u-kaipo - home.

Values to tangata whenua and landscape assessment

Statutory acknowledgments²¹ and areas of interest²² established by the Treaty of Waitangi deeds of settlement and statements of association (as appended to the District Plan) are in place for Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui. Under the RMA, and as required by the RPS, this means that Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui are tangata whenua of the District, with shared and recognised values to be considered as part of a landscape assessment and in the identification of ONFL and SAL. At a broad scale, and as summarised in the description above, these statements and areas of interests establish the historical and cultural values of Te Awakairangi (the Hutt River) and its tributaries, and the broader Upper Hutt area through historical mythology, links to important ancestors, patterns of settlement, transport, trade, food gathering and historical conflicts and events involving notable leaders and loss of land. As such Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui are also mana whenua²³ of the Upper Hutt District- iwi who have traditional authority over an area of land [whenua] and the area over which particular iwi and hapū claim historical and contemporary interests.

The Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust was established in August 2008 to receive and manage the Treaty settlement package and legal interests of Taranaki Whānui. The Wellington Tenths Trust, established in 1839, manages the land interests of its shareholders who include Taranaki Whānui.

Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira is the legal and land trust entity of Ngāti Toa.

20 Named after Wiremu Tako Ngatata one of the first Māori members of the Legislative Council in 1872. His father was Ngatata-i-te-rangi of Te Ati Awa and his mother Whetowheto of Ngati Ruanui

21 A statutory acknowledgement is an acknowledgement by the Crown that recognises the mana of a tangata whenua group in relation to specified areas - particularly the cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional associations with an area. These acknowledgements relate to 'statutory areas' which include areas of land, geographic features, lakes, rivers, wetlands and coastal marine areas, but are only given over Crown-owned land. The GWRC Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PRNP) further documents values associated with Te AwaKairangi - the Hutt River - and other sites of significance in the District for Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui

22 Areas of interest are mapped in the directory of Iwi and Maori Organisations administered by Te Puni Kōkiri <http://www.tkm.govt.nz/>

23 mana whenua means customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu in an identified area <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230272.html>

Pākehā - early years, settlement and city

Pākehā contact with the Upper Hutt District took some time to follow the initial siting, exploration and settlement of the Wellington Harbour - Te Whangau a Tara - by James Cook (1769-1771) and the New Zealand Company in 1826. Immediate opportunities along the coastal edge, and on the flat lands of Lower Hutt for settlement, reduced the need for early settlers to move inland. Dense cover and access routes confined to the river passage further limited exploration with a road, 'of sorts', to the Taita Gorge completed in 1847, opening up the area for greater pākehā settler interests.

The first Pākehā to travel to the District were associated with NZ Company. Ernst Dieffenbach, a German scientist, is credited with making one of the first journeys up the Hutt River in 1840, travelling as far as Kaitoke. Robert Stokes, a surveyor, followed soon after and is thought to be the first Pākehā to cross the Rimutakas. Charles Heaphy, the company's now well known artist and assistant surveyor, also travelled with Dieffenbach into the Upper Hutt area .

Richard Barton is credited with being the first settler and magistrate. He bought land in Trentham, near the corner of Fergusson Drive and Camp Street, and named the area, after his home in England, notably building a large and unusual house (with 5 front doors and 22 rooms). In general, however, the Pākehā population remained low through the 1800's and, in the first half of the 20th Century, was associated with native timber milling, then pastoral farming and exotic forestry. Continued difficult access underpinned this slow transition to urban development and where transport options were further limited by the 1855 earthquake, cutting short the navigable extent of the river to outside the District. Dense forest cover and wetland areas made the land hard to clear and farm, and the encircling ranges and steep terrain meant alternative and extended transport connections took a long time to complete and were not always reliable. The first track over the Rimutakas, for horse and cart, was completed in 1856 but was often impassable; a continued although less frequent occurrence today. The road over the Remutaka saddle opened the way for Upper Hutt area to be used as a staging post for travellers with small settlements such as Quinns Post - near Wallaceville- providing accommodation and goods needed along the trail. This route was generally aligned with Fergusson Drive through the



Whirinaki 1879 showing chapel in the background C Aubrey painting. Image Source: Upper Hutt Library, Recollect

main Hutt Valley and what is now SH2 through Te Marua, Kaitoke and over the saddle. The network of streets servicing businesses and residents and, later, to and from the rail stations, established the first town centre for Upper Hutt around Fortune Lane - Fergusson Dr - Ward St; as is evidenced by the concentration of buildings with heritage status in the area. The oldest remaining of these is the 1861 wooden blockhouse, built to provide defence after the Hutt Valley Campaign.

Rail connection over ranges opened in 1878, cemented the inland connection to the Wairarapa from Wellington and greater access to the area. Following 8 years of construction, the first Wairarapa line, retired in the mid 1950s, and now the popular walking and cycling Rimutaka Rail Trail, combined several tunnels, bridges and development of the Fell system; to slow and assist rail movement on the Wairarapa side of the ranges.

Such hard won transport advances make up a significant proportion of the historic features identified in the District Plan and are recognised by other heritage organisations.



Fell locomotives descending the Rimutaka incline, 1920's. Image Source: Upper Hutt Library, Recollect



Rimutaka rail trail tunnel. Image Source: Rimutaka Rail Trail Explorer @ Cycle Rimutaka

Timber milling on the flatter valley floor, that had progressed slowly without rail access, entered its 'hey days' from 1890 to the 1920s and established a large number of mill sites in the District with early relics and continued activity most obvious at Maymorn. Cruickshanks Tunnel, through the Eastern Hills, was first built to take water to the Cruickshanks sawmill with a second tunnel, built above it, forming part of the Wairarapa rail line. The Maymorn station and siding at the end of the Mangaroa Valley was a hub of rail and transport activity from that time. Along with stations in the main valley, the line assisted transport of harder to reach timber resources, from the Akatarawa Valley and foothills, and farming goods out of the District with an early focus on Dairying and exotic plantation forestry, for example, in the Eastern Hills in the area that became known as Pinehaven.

Travel by rail opened up the District for diverse recreation activities, now synonymous with Upper Hutt. Early bach's established in the Pinehaven basin, added to the use of Upper Hutt by Wellington residents. Trips on the train were used for picnics and holidays, to enjoy the river and bush trails as well as hunting, fishing (deer, pigs and trout were released by early settlers), tramping, golf and horse racing. During this time, the Royal Wellington Golf Club relocated to Heretaunga (1908), as did the Trentham

Race Course, opened in 1906. These developments further reinforced the southern part of valley and area around Fortune Lane as the centre and heralded the founding of Upper Hutt's Town District by the first mayor Angus McMurdy (McMurdy Road) in the early 1900s. McMurdy Road also being known as the site of the mayors unusual Bonnie Glen house coined 'McMurdy 'Castle' - destroyed by fire in 1969.

Military connections brought a further increase in population, although, at first in transit. Areas around Trentham used for military training from the late 1800s were extended to provide training for soldiers heading to the front in WW1 with soldiers walking from the Wairarapa now memorialised on the Rimutaka Saddle. Another smaller camp was set up at Maymorn, however Trentham became a permanent base for the military during WWII and is now a training camp for the New Zealand Defence Force. Together with the agricultural research centre, established at Wallaceville in 1905, and the early golf and racing clubs and Park at Trentham (gifted by the Barton family as a memorial to WWII) this has meant that greater areas of land have been retained as relatively open in the southern part of the main valley and at the base of the Eastern Hills from Wallaceville Rd south.

As an important part of the history of the Wellington region, Upper Hutt's continuing role in providing potable water has meant both a unique pattern of public land ownership and areas retired and left to regenerate as indigenous forest. Early establishment of water collection areas in the District is marked by heritage features such as the Birchville Dam near Cannon Point and the early weir structure in the Hutt River at Kaitoke and has also ensured continued access for residents and visitors to the District. Early recreation contact, now formalised through the Akararawa Forest, Pakuratahi Forest and Kaitoke Regional Parks, was led by the Tararua Tramping club, established in 1919 with the first Pākehā to make the Southern Crossing, from Otaki to Kaitoke, being the clubs founder William Field (now memorialised in the naming of Field Peak and Hut). Recreation activities in accessible parts of the ranges have become increasingly diverse including permitted areas for hunting, 4WD, mountain biking, camping, kayaking, rock climbing and mountaineering and are host to a number of national events such as the Karapoti classic through the Akatarawa forest.

As transport connections were key to early settler contact with the District, they also featured in the transition to significant urbanisation. While staging posts became small centres and the main business district grew through the 1920s, 30s and 40s it wasn't until after WWII that the population shifted a gear and urban areas became the more common landuse in the main valley. In part this was due to a land and population pressure in Wellington; a drive for new residents that continues today. Commuter rail service improvements also had a big part to play with electrification of the rail line from 1955 and the realignment of the Wairarapa line to its current route - reducing the travel time between the Hutt and Featherston from 2.5 hours to 40 minutes. A shift of the main business centre to Main St in the 1950s, and continued rapid growth of newer suburbs around it, meant that the population of the Town District achieved city status, with a population of over 20,000 in 1966.

Combined with the natural environment constraints of flooding and topography, the Districts urban landscapes are stretched along the main valley floor - sandwiched between the relatively undeveloped land along the base of the Eastern Hills and the flood plain of the Hutt River - Te Awakairangi. From Silverstream to Timberlea, suburbs of distinct character also mark the linear development of urban areas and its links with transport development, early military presence and efforts to retain land for recreation.

- Notable Trees, UHCC
- Historical Features, UHCC
- ★ Archaeological Sites, NZAA
- Indicative Historical Pā Sites, Statutory Acknowledgments
- Orongomai Marae

Likelihood of Archaeological Site, GWRC

- Very High
- High
- Medium

Ngāti Toa Rangatira

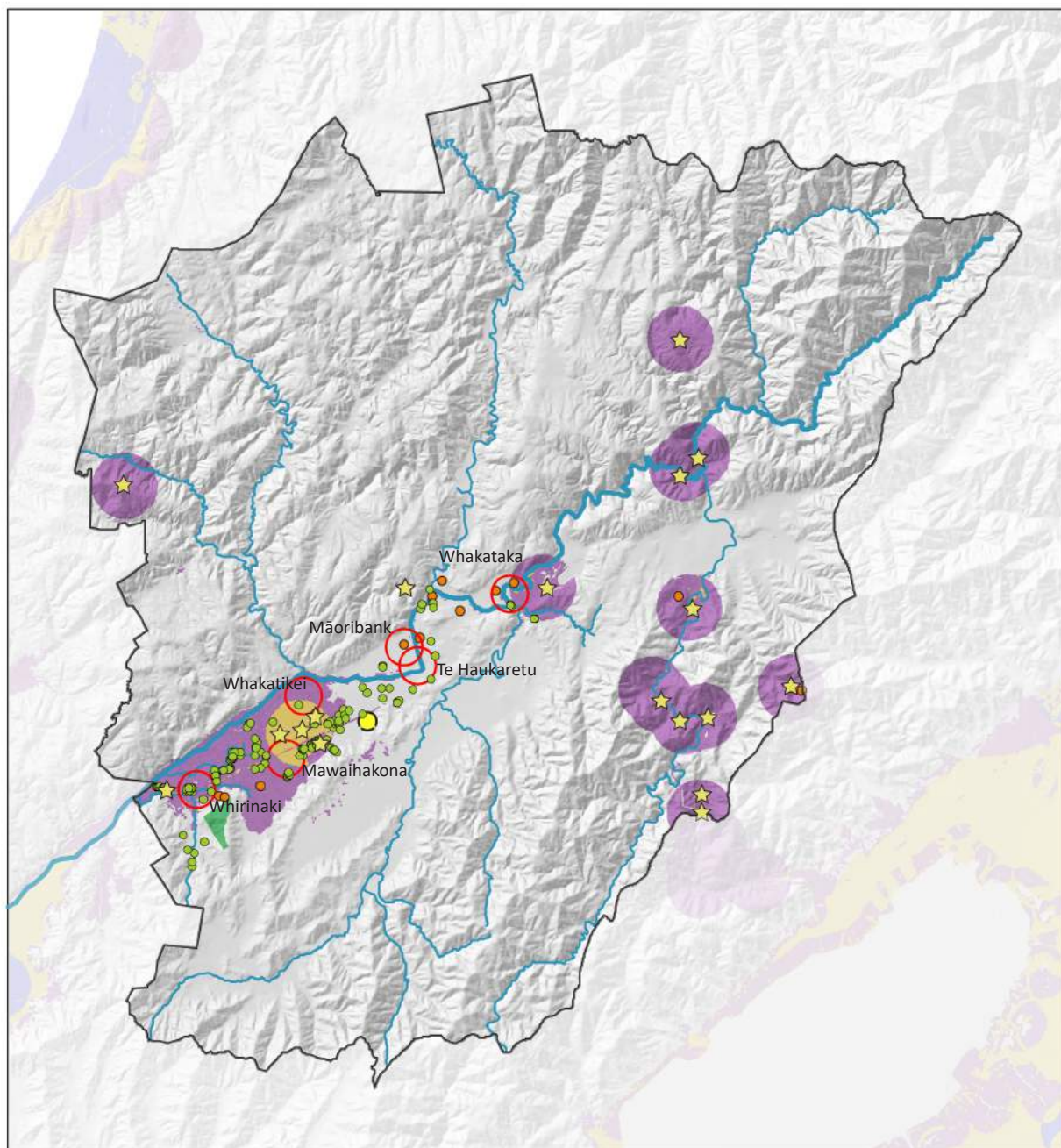
Statutory Acknowledgements

- Hutt River-Te Awa Kairangi and its tributaries

Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko O Te Ika

Statutory Acknowledgements

- Hutt River-Te Awa Kairangi
- Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust Land



Heritage Environment

Development and Management Environment

Current development and management patterns provide cues as to likely changes in the natural and heritage environments in the near future and provide information on the broader resource management context of possible ONFL and SAL 'candidates'.

Current population and demographics

The 2013 census records a total population of 40,179 in the District, nearly half of which live in Upper Hutt City Census area, and the majority in the main valley. Recent population growth rates and forecasted figures²⁴ identify Upper Hutt as a City likely to experience a moderate growth rate in the next 15 years after a relatively static period through the early 2000s. Areas identified in the Councils Urban Growth Strategy combine intensification and urban extension in the main valley and Te Marua, with a further shift from rural to rural residential continuing in peri-urban areas of Mangaroa and Whitemans Valley. Easily accessible elevated land features in more recent residential development, for example, at Riverstone, Fairview, Mt Marua and Kingsley Heights, and there are areas identified in the strategy for new development, such as the 'Guilford Block above Pinehaven, Wallaceville Structure Plan and 'Gabites Block' in Maymorn.

Business and Growth

The economy is no longer supported by resource based primary industries, as it would have been up until the 1970s. Rather, a diverse range of manufacturing and services industries make use of the District's good transport connections and lower land prices, in contrast to Lower Hutt and Wellington. Council's current Landuse Study and business development group signals further opportunities along the Fergusson Drive 'spine' for mixed use development; including conversion of the former Wallaceville Research Station and the Central Institute of Technology campus with recent sales and plan changes in process.

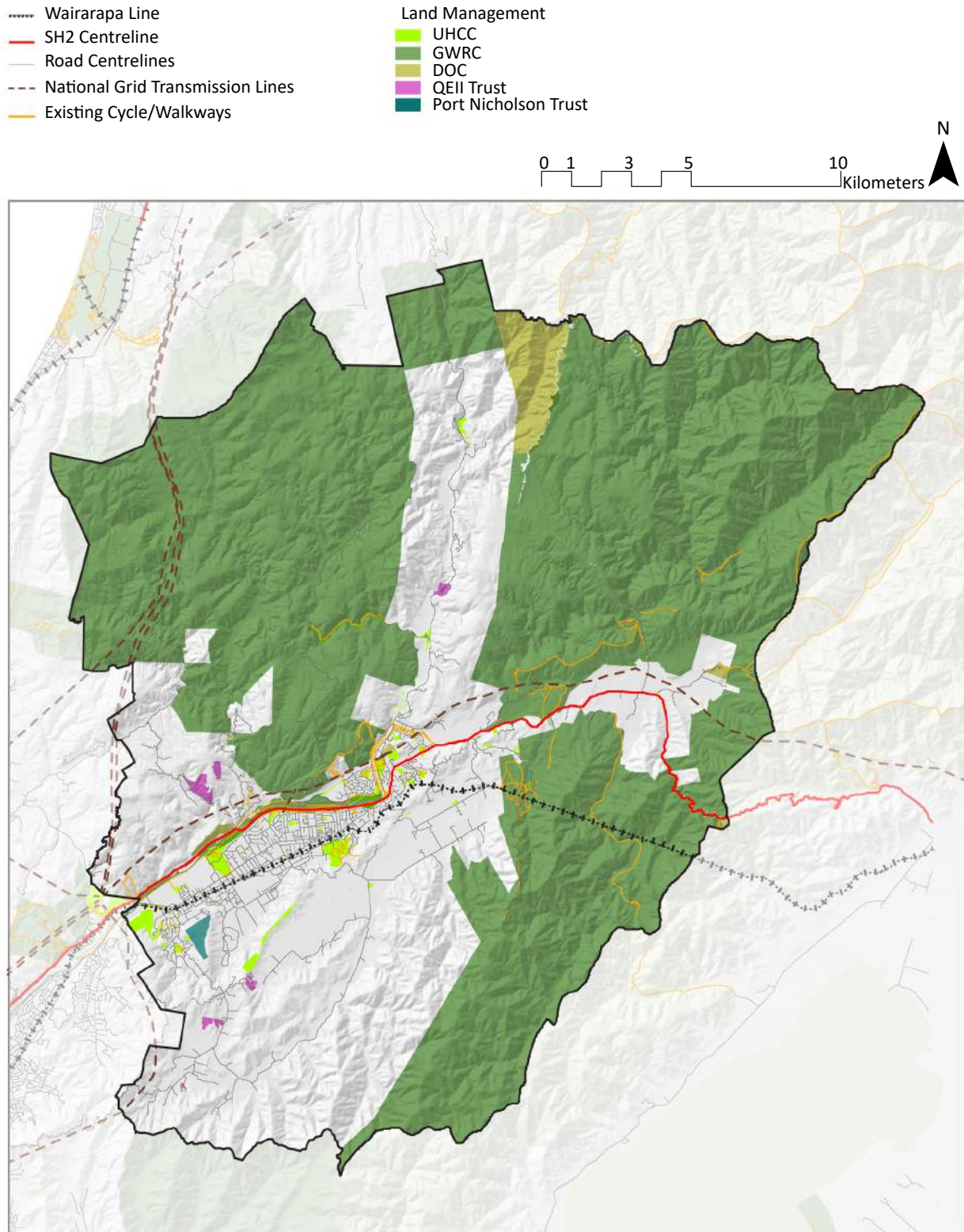
Zoning and landownership

Landuse zones and designations identified in the District Plan are not unique by type, but several stand out in terms of total area. There are large tracts of land designated for current and potential water supply located within the Kaitoke Regional Park and the Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forests; also used for diverse types of outdoor recreation. Areas along the Hutt River are also managed by Greater Wellington for flood protection and integrate popular river trails. Combined with the reserves, parks and sports fields managed by City Council, over 60% of the Districts land area is publicly owned. Upper Hutt has an unusually large area of land zoned as Open Space with public access and use for recreation. There are also a wide range of private recreation facilities - gliding, speedway, horse racing, golf and karting . Upper Hutt landscapes have continued to be associated with outdoor activities adding more urban, pursuits to the 'wilderness' experience, as first enjoyed by early settlers.

Landscape areas and features currently identified in the operative District Plan are limited to the 'Southern Hills' overlay. This identifies high value landscape, ecology and visual value areas on the hills to the east of the main urban areas which are managed through separate objectives, policies and plans. Important ridgelines are also identified, and managed through rules and standards.

²⁴ <https://forecast.idnz.co.nz/upper-hutt/population-households-dwellings>

A draft Significant Natural Area (SNA) assessment, over private land, identifying possible areas of ecological significance, has been completed in 2017 by Wildlands consultants under the RPS Policy 23 criteria. This desktop study²⁵ identified a total of 65 potential SNA areas in the District with a further 65 sites requiring further investigation. This study has been extended to areas of public land, with preliminary results likely to be available mid 2018. This whole District SNA study can then be used as part of the review and feedback in the second stage of the landscape study, as one aspect and data source relevant to landscape values that needs to be considered in a landscape assessment.



Management Environment

25 Wildlands (2017) Joint Review of Significant Natural Resource Provisions for Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Districts Plans: Stage 1 Desktop Analysis

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LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT



Te Marua Valley - Emerald Hill - Rimutaka Ranges Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Part 2 Landscape Character Assessment

A landscape character assessment was used in this study to identify broad areas within the District that could be distinguished by landform, landcover and landuse. The desktop and field survey techniques used to analyse these areas provided an objective understanding of the natural and cultural elements, patterns and processes that subsequently inform the identification of landscape values and areas able to be considered and evaluated as ONFL and SAL.

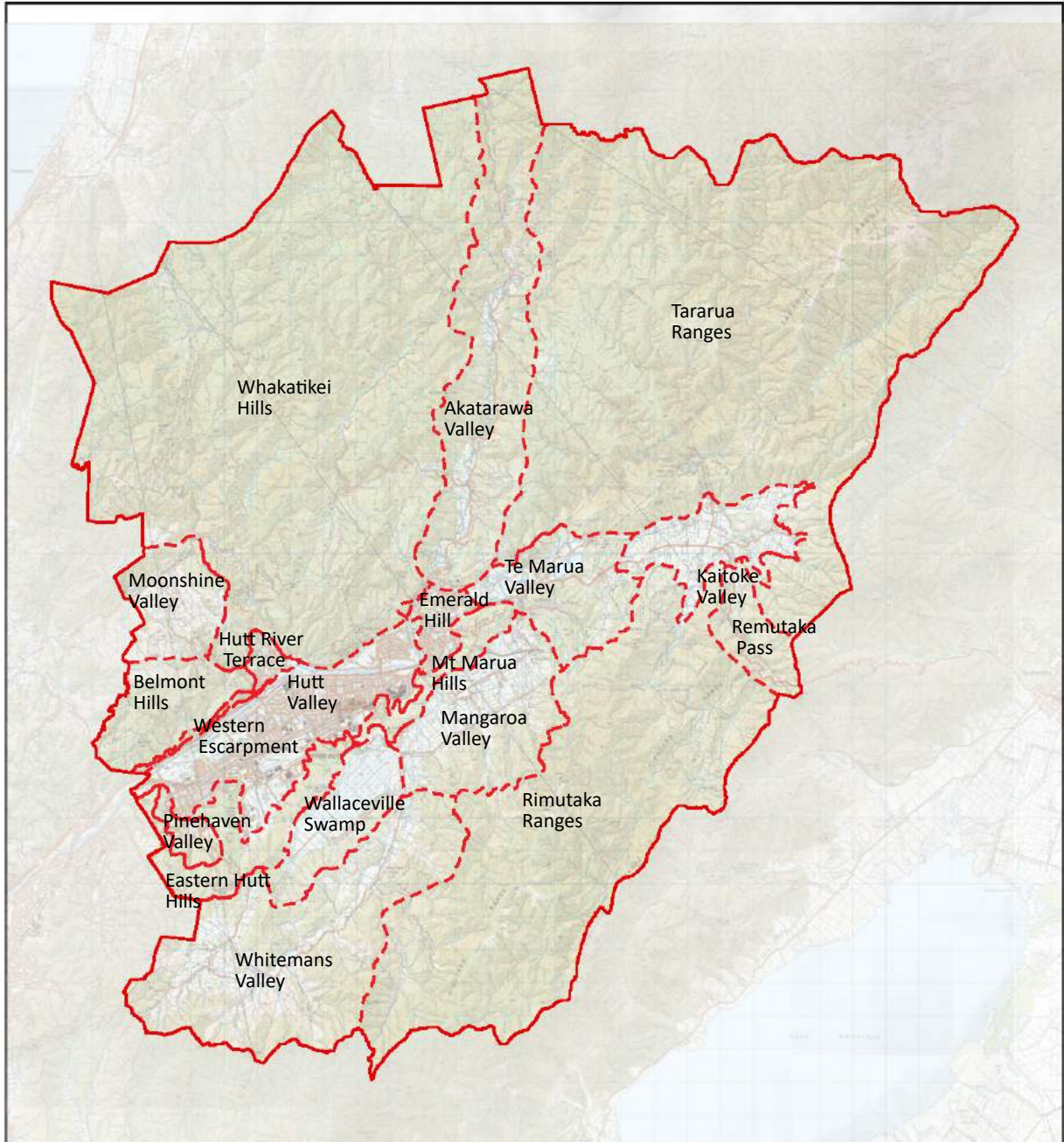
Indicative boundaries and the distinguishing features of the 19 landscape character areas (LCA) are described in this part of the report. Variations in character across the LCA's and zones of transition are recognised. Distinct boundaries have been drawn for the purpose of this study, however more gradual changes in landform, landcover and landuse are likely to be perceived on the ground.

The LCA identified have been named and mapped to help distinguish their geographic location and the processes that have shaped them (see Part 1). In the following pages, the landform, landcover and landuse characteristics of each LCA are described along with a list of key characteristics and a smaller scale map of the areas extent.

Upper Hutt City District Landscape Character Areas

- Pinehaven Valley
- Eastern Hutt Hills
- Mt Marua Hills
- Whitemans Valley
- Wallaceville Swamp
- Mangaroa Valley
- Rimutaka Ranges
- Tararua Ranges
- Akatarawa Valley
- Whakatikei Hills
- Moonshine Valley
- Hutt River Terraces
- Belmont Hills
- Western Escarpment
- Hutt Valley
- Emerald Hill
- Te Marua Valley
- Kaitoke Valley
- Remutaka Pass

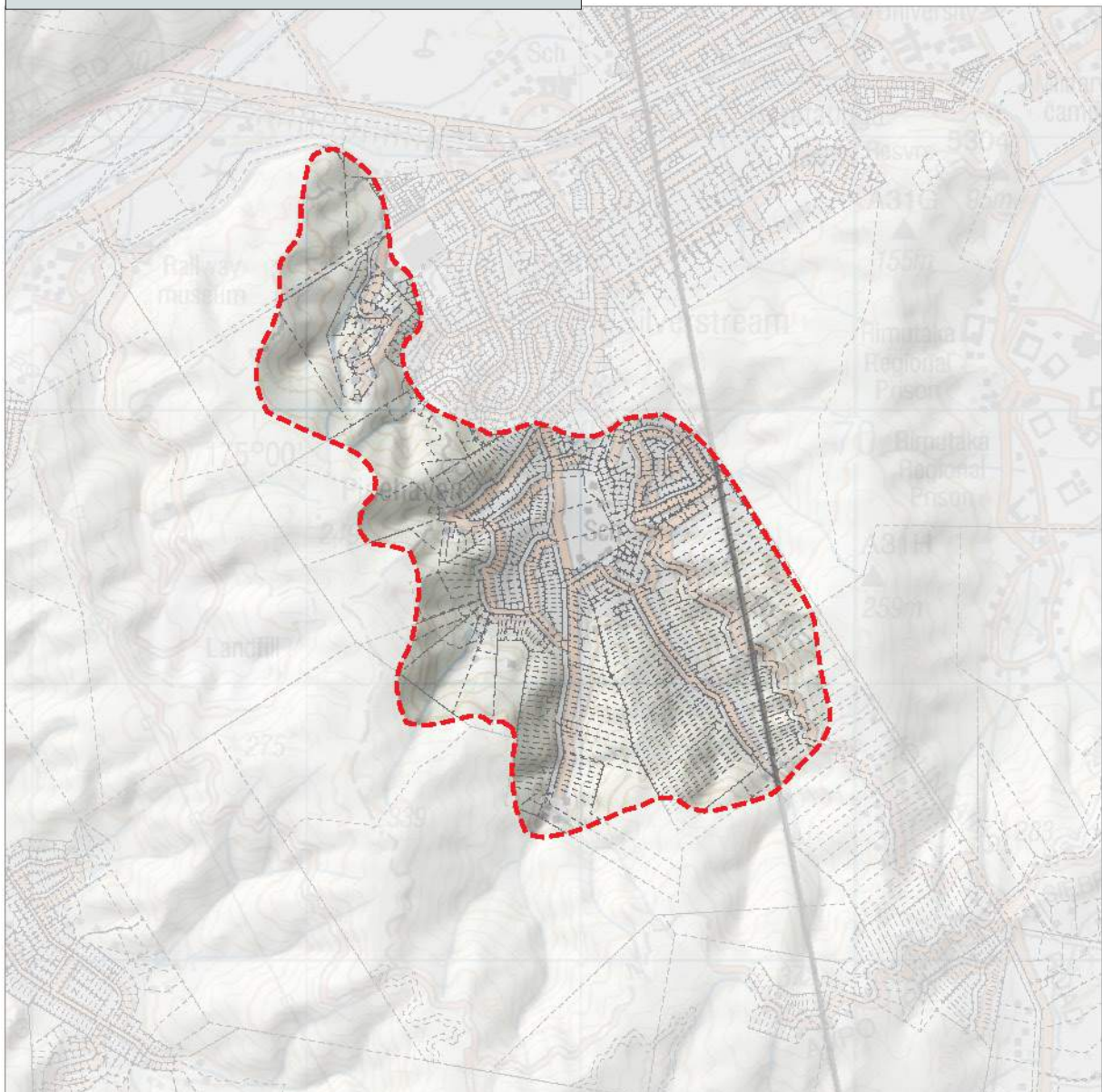
- District Boundary
- - Character Areas



PINEHAVEN VALLEY

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Steep sided basin enclosed by Rimutaka Range outlier 'Blue Mountains' and Taita Gorge spur, marking the edge of the district
- Basin formed by Hutt River tributaries cutting down through uplifted landform including Pinehaven stream with identified flood zone
- Regenerating and remnant beech forest on the upper slopes following clearing for milling including reserve areas Fendalton, Ecclesfield and Wi Tako and Wyndam Park with tracks
- Pine plantations (established 1928) associated with early European families (Chichester and Goodwin) and early use as a weekend holiday area for Wellington residents.
- Established residential community on the lower slopes and stream terraces, school opened 1954



PINEHAVEN VALLEY



Pinehaven to Wi Tako viewed from Heretaunga Reserve. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd



Pinehaven viewed from River Road - State Highway 2. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

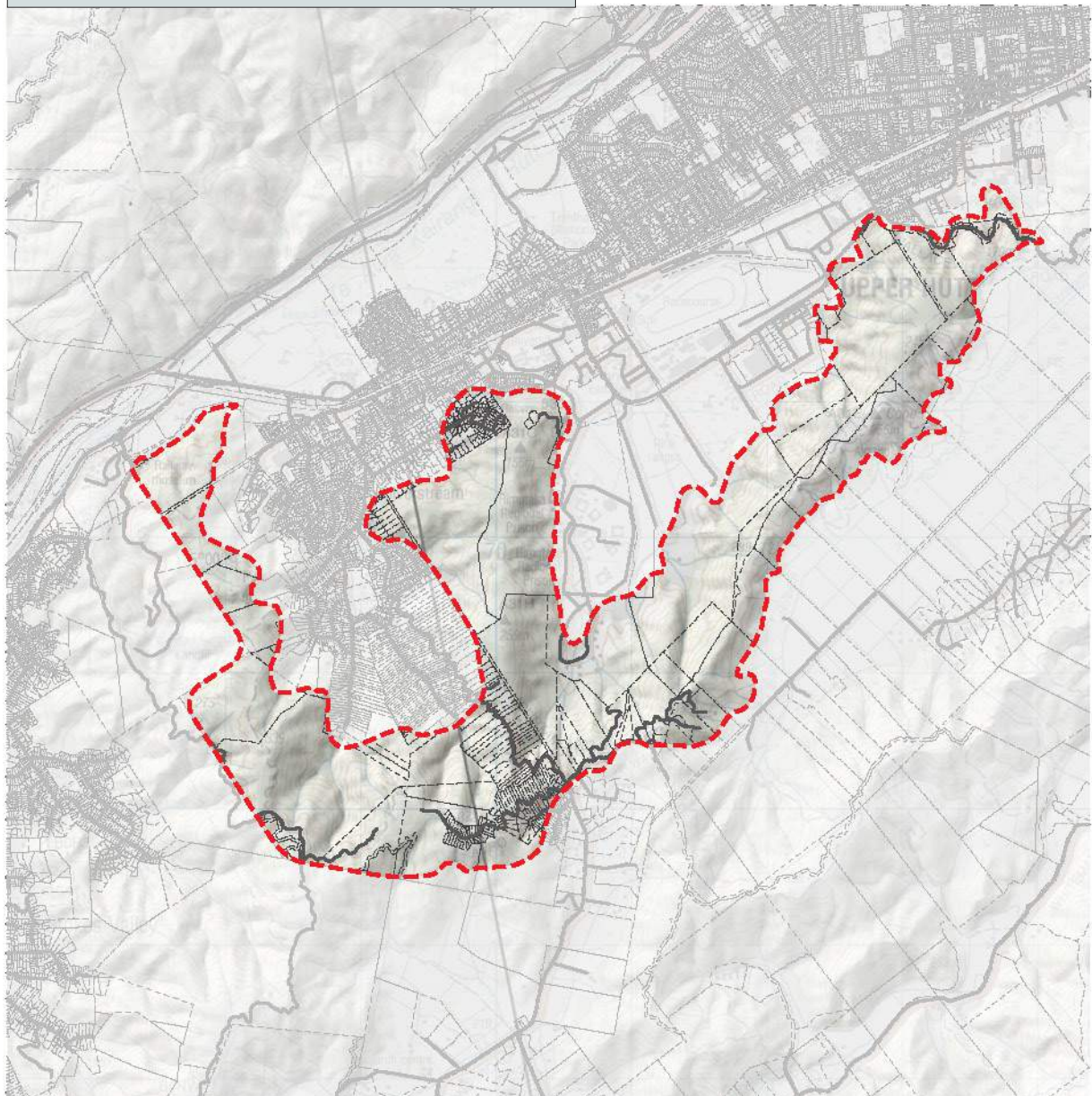
EASTERN HUTT HILLS

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Outlier foothills to the Rimutaka Ranges shaped by tectonic activity and river tributaries cutting down to the Hutt and Mangaroa River
- Distinct backdrop and enclosing landform to the urban areas of the Hutt Valley with named landmarks - Cone Hill - and ridgeline features
- Vegetation patterns feature remnant and regenerating beech forest, kamahi and kāmuka with exotic pine plantations a continuing feature above Pinehaven Valley
- Wi Tako Ngatata Scenic Reserve, now managed by Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, features recreation tracks extending up to Pinehaven ridge through plantation forest and reservoir access routes
- Residential land use limited to lower slopes and steep switch back roads servicing Blue Mountains, Whitemans and Mangaroa Valley communities



0 0.25 0.75 1.25 2.5 Kilometers



EASTERN HUTT HILLS



Eastern Hutt Hills viewed from Riverstone Terraces. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

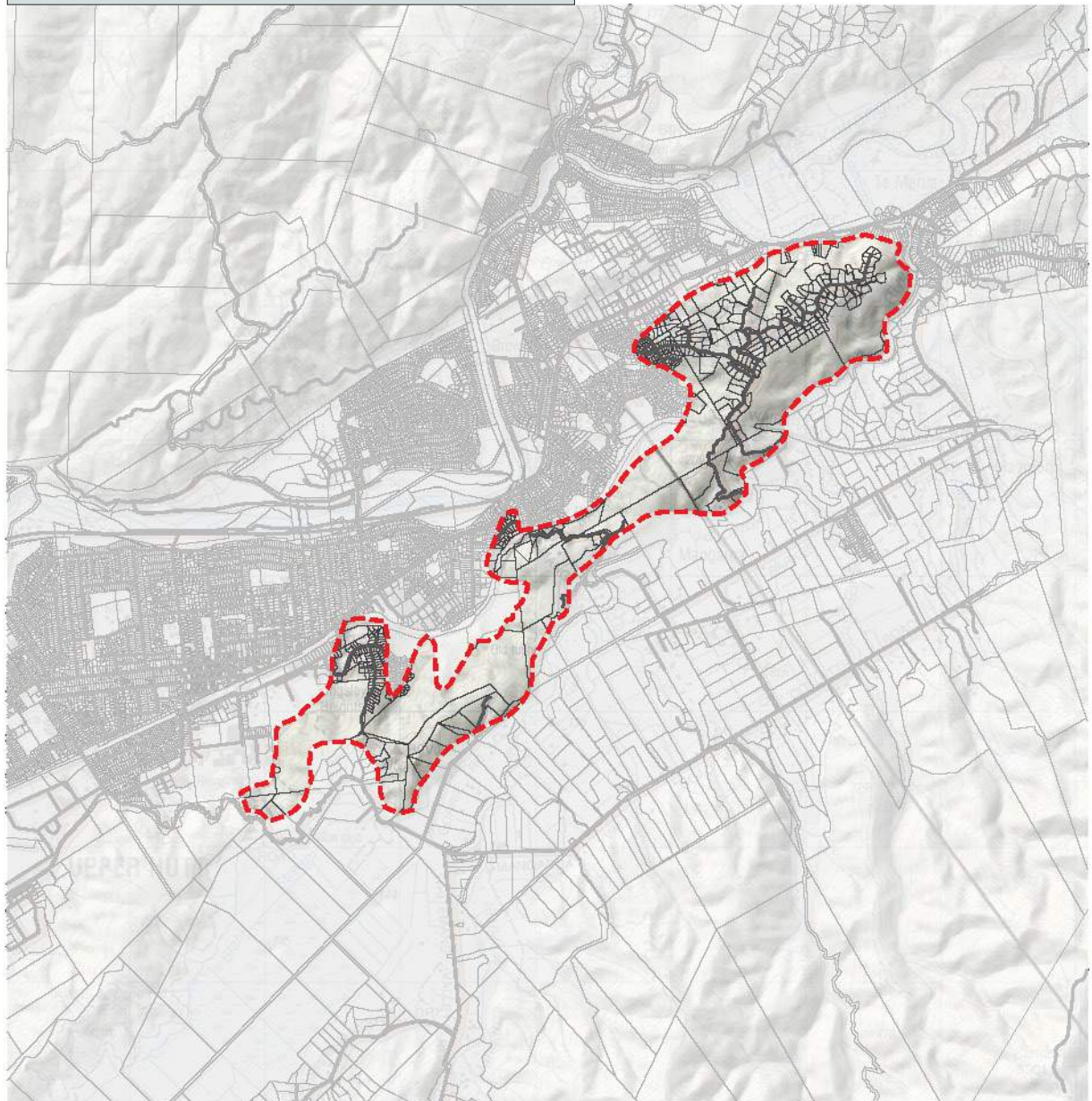


Eastern Hutt Hills viewed from Heretaunga Park. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

MT MARUA HILLS

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Outlier landform of the Rimutaka Ranges, from Kingsley Heights to the landmark spur above Te Marua and backdrop to the cities northern suburbs
- Predominant pattern of early regenerating scrub with smaller areas of beech forest retained in steep gullies and minor areas of exotic forest on the southern faces
- Bounded by the Mangaroa River and Wairarapa Railway Line
- Greater pattern of residential development- compared to the Eastern Hutt Hills - with larger scale homes located along the ridgeline and accessible spurs featuring panoramic views across the river valleys to the ranges



MT MARUA HILLS



Mt Marua Hills, from Totara Bridge Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

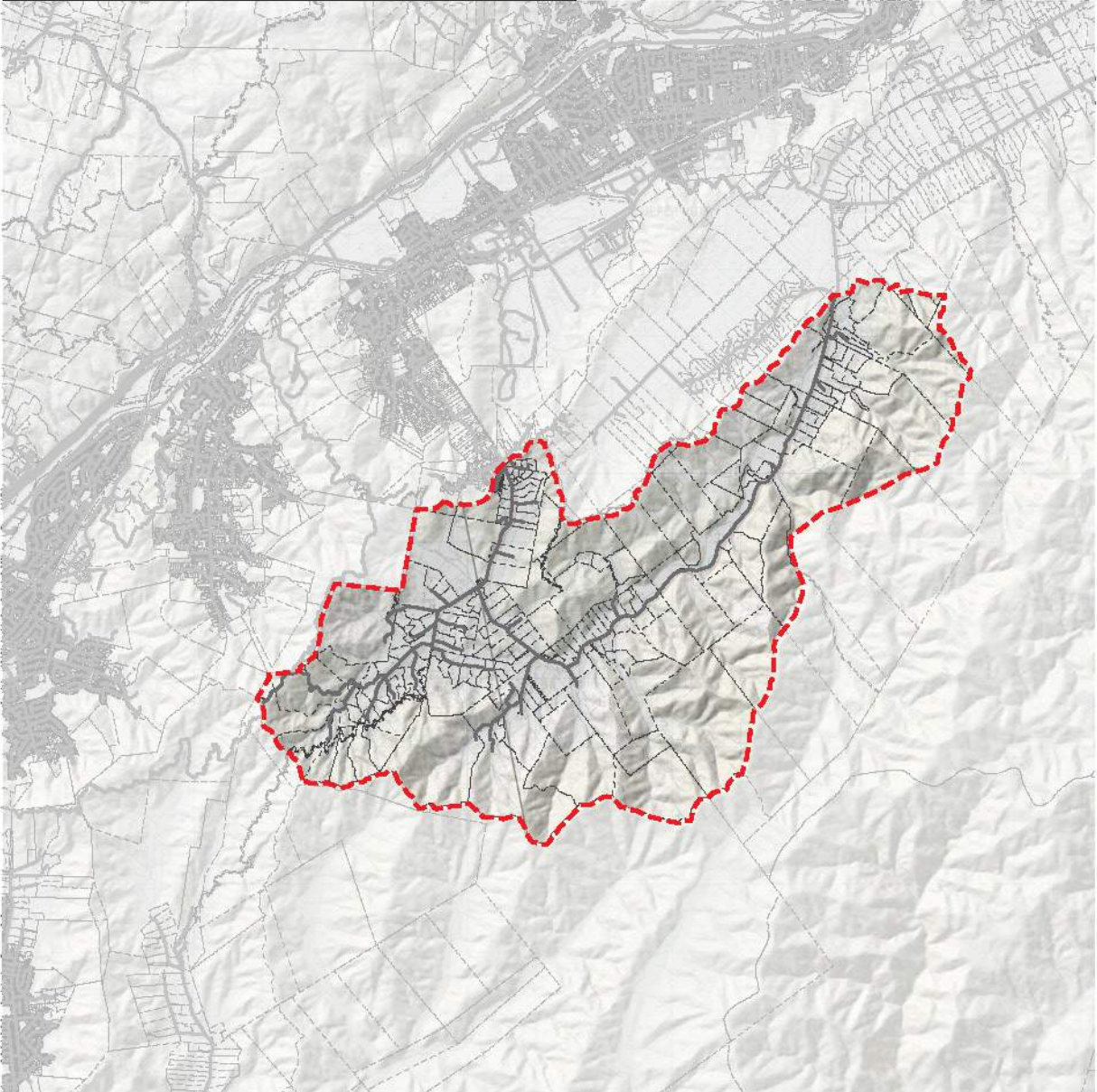


Mt Marua Way, view towards Mt Barton Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

WHITEMANS VALLEY

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

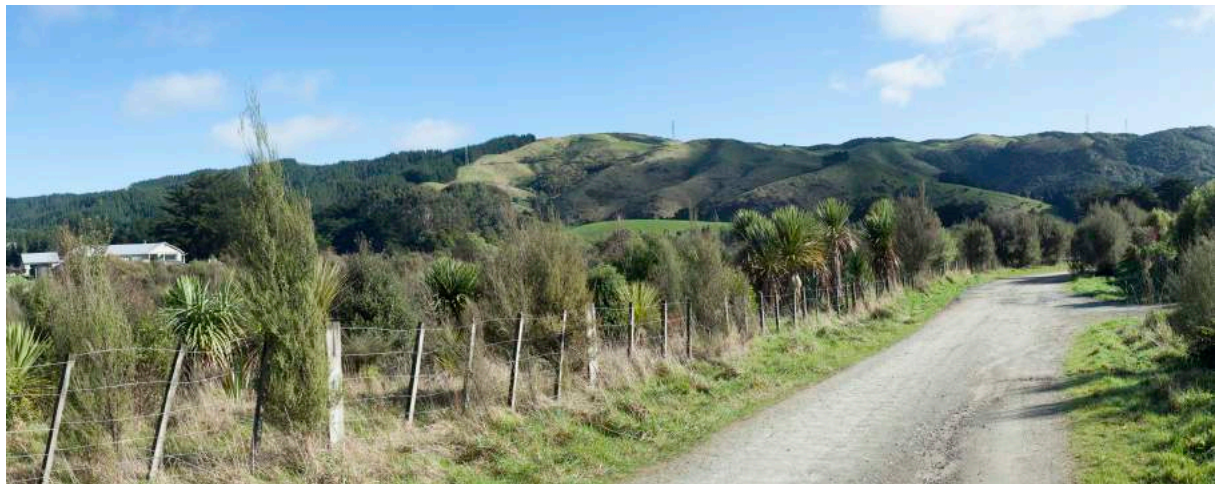
- Confined basin at the headwaters of the Mangaroa River defined by the foothills of the Rimutaka Ranges including named peaks, High Misty and Devine and Eastern Hutt Hills (and national grid)
- Sense of enclosure and unique microclimate enhanced by outlier landform separating the basin from Wallaceville Swamp and the steep 'switch back' access to the Hutt Valley via Blue Mountains and narrow Whitemans Rd connection.
- Vegetation patterns are diverse, associated with rural lifestyle landuse with plantation forestry (to the District boundary) and regenerating and remnant beech forest along the foothills and outlier
- Settlement associated with the Whitemans Family (1871) and later Blue Mountains community



WHITEMANS VALLEY



Whitemans Valley view towards Eastern Hills Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

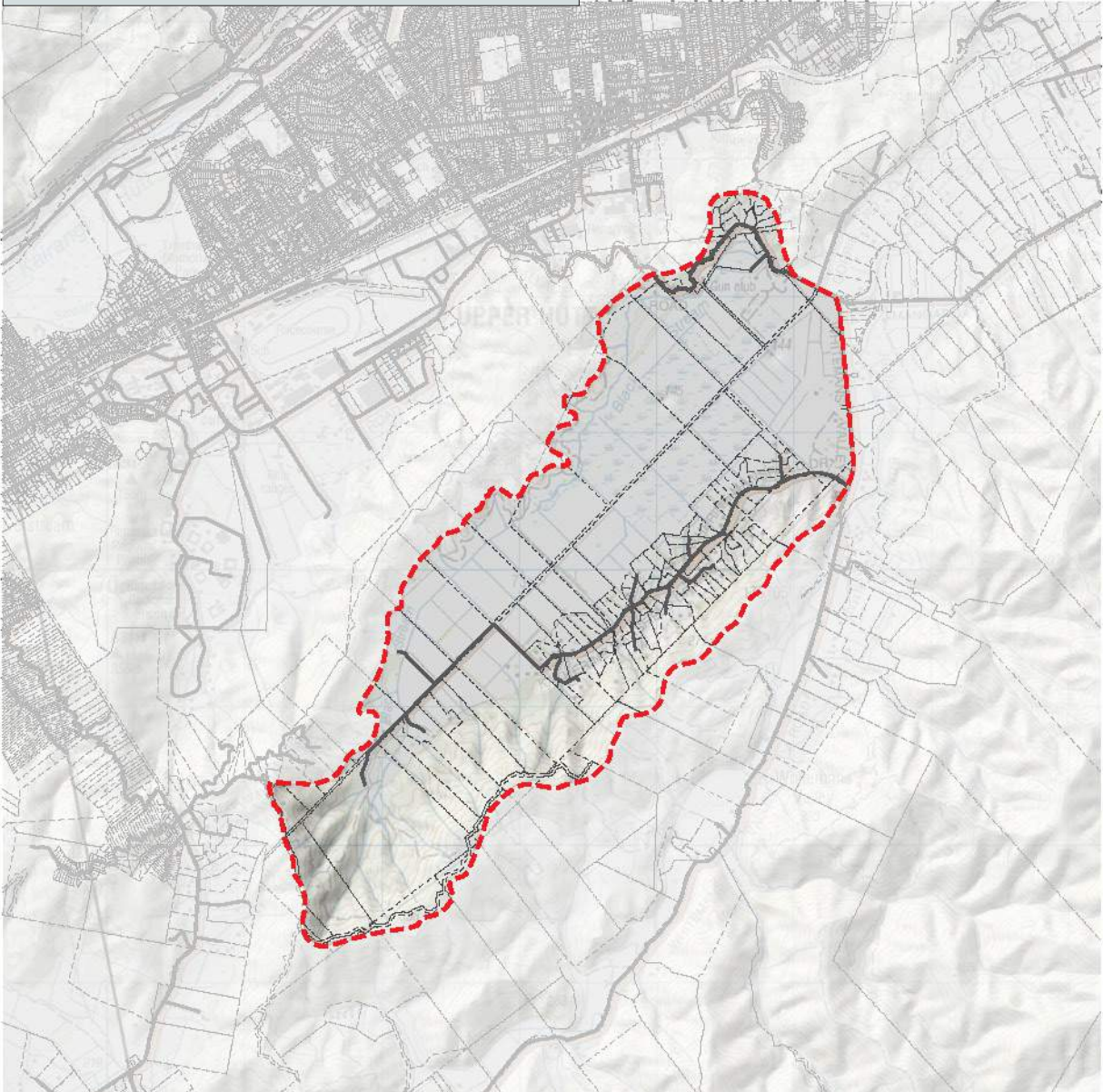


Kakariki Way, Whitemans Valley view towards BonW. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

WALLACEVILLE SWAMP

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Lowland associated with the Black Stream - tributary to the Mangaroa River
- Enclosed by the Eastern Hutt Hills (named high point Cone Hill) and spur along the Mangaroa River/Whitemans Valley Rd creating a unique microclimate
- Geological features; quaternary swamp (post glacial era) of predominantly subsurface fossilised vegetation
- Indigenous vegetation is predominantly mānuka/kānuka including regenerating lowland areas and small areas of remnant beech forest at the southern end of the catchment
- Water table and restricted access has confined relatively recent rural residential development to the south eastern spur edge with older homes and drainage channels linked to continued farming



WALLACEVILLE SWAMP



Wallaceville Swamp, Wallaceville Rd. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

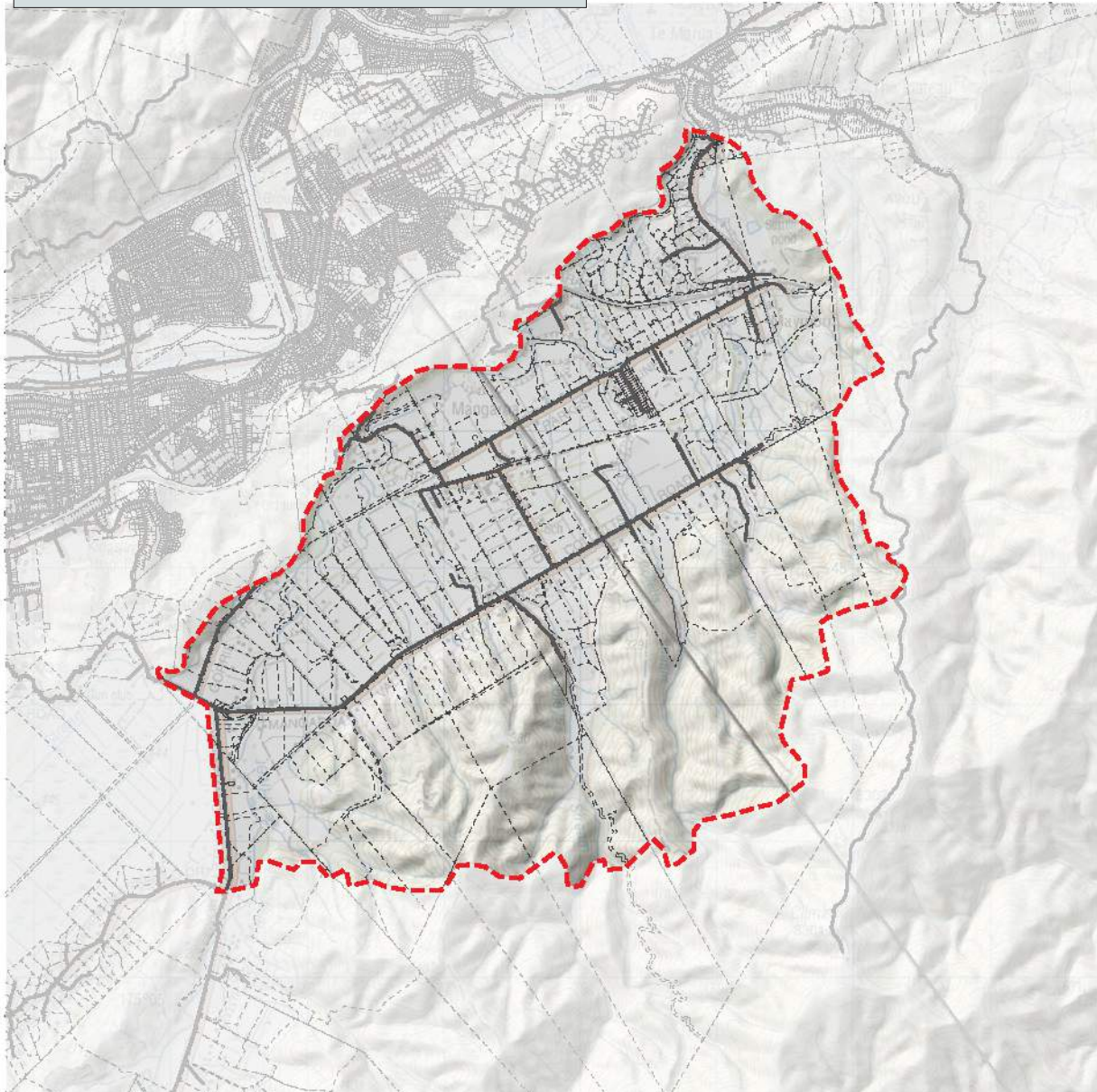
MANGAROA VALLEY

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

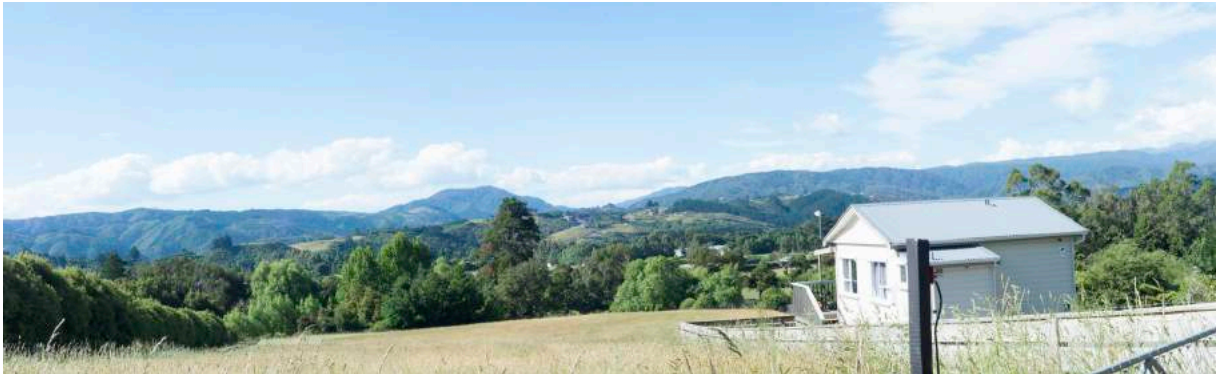
- Broad alluvial valley set between the Rimutaka Ranges and outlying hills with Mangaroa River gravels, peat, silt soils and cool microclimate
- Prominent spurs at the Maymorn entrance and limited access roads back to the city and Whitemans Valley, increase sense of enclosure
- Vegetation patterns are predominantly exotic-typical of rural landuse on the valley floor and known flood zone with exotic forestry and regenerating kānuka/mānuka and small areas of beech forest to the valley edges
- Landuse has transitioned from farming to rural lifestyle and planned residential with some light industry retained near Maymorn
- Maymorn provides link to past rail alignment, military use and Pakuratahi Forest Park and marks rail entry/exit to the District



0 0.25 0.75 1.25 2.5 Kilometers



MANGAROA VALLEY



Mangaroa Valley Road toward Mt Barton Image source: Isthmus Group LTD

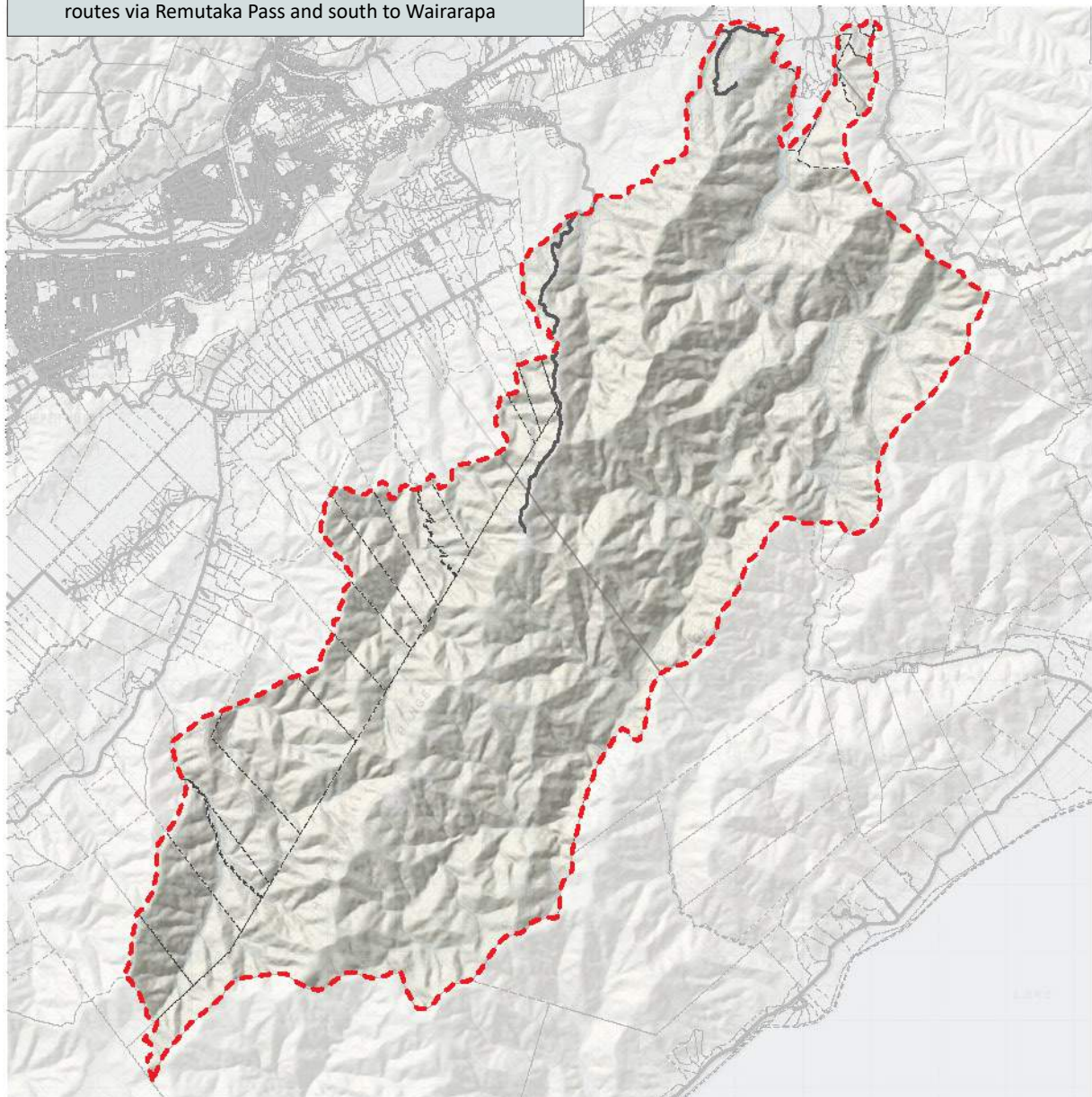


Maymorn tunnel camp 1952. Image source: Upper Hutt Library

RIMUTAKA RANGES

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Defining ranges along the SE boundary of the District from High Misty (717m) to the Remutaka Pass (555m)
- Rugged uplifted greywacke landforms influenced by the SW-NE trending West Wairarapa fault and tributaries of the Mangaroa and Pakuratahi Rivers
- Named peaks help define the District boundary including Rimutaka, Deera and BawBaw or are well known landmarks, Mt Climie (862m) and Goat Rock
- Vegetation patterns along the foothills include forestry and pastureland with sparse settlement. Majority area managed by GWRC as Pakuratahi Forest Park with lowland beech forest to sub alpine habitats
- Popular tracks into the Forest Park include Climie Ridge and the Rimutaka Rail Trail - with heritage features - and lesser known tracks accessed via the Pakuratahi River
- Historic and continuing associations linked to the construction of the Wairarapa rail line
- Important forest resource for Māori and historic transport routes via Remutaka Pass and south to Wairarapa



RIMUTAKA RANGES



Rimutaka Ranges, view from Kirton Drive. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

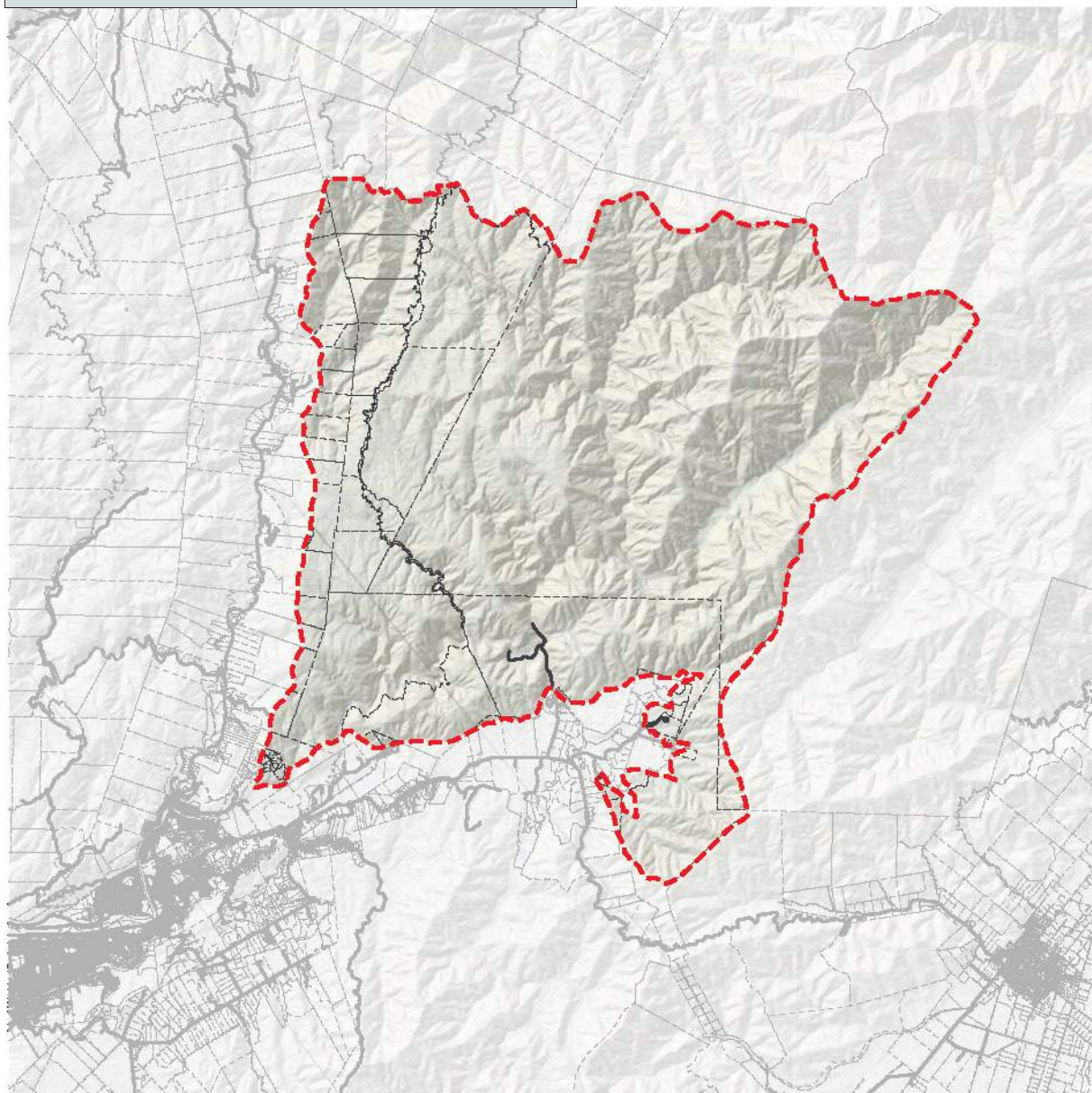


Rimutaka Ranges, view from end of Tunnel Gully Rd. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

TARARUA RANGES

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Distinct District edge and dramatic backdrop, often topped by cloud or snow including 'dress circle' peaks - Aston 1376m highest in the District
- Rugged uplifted greywacke landforms with fast flowing rivers and streams and large scale erosion
- High biodiversity and part of largest North Island conservation area ranging from wetland, beech to alpine
- Popular camp sites, day walks, rafting and hunting areas in the GWRC Kaitoke Regional Park with historic structures marking water supply role for the region
- Network of tracks and huts extending into Kāpiti Coast District and the DOC Tararua Forest Park including the 'Southern Crossing'
- Important historic forest resource and transport route for Māori with associations expressed in Māori names for peaks and streams and archaeological sites
- European names for peaks commemorate early explorers and surveyors



TARARUA RANGES



Tararuas from Marchant Rd. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

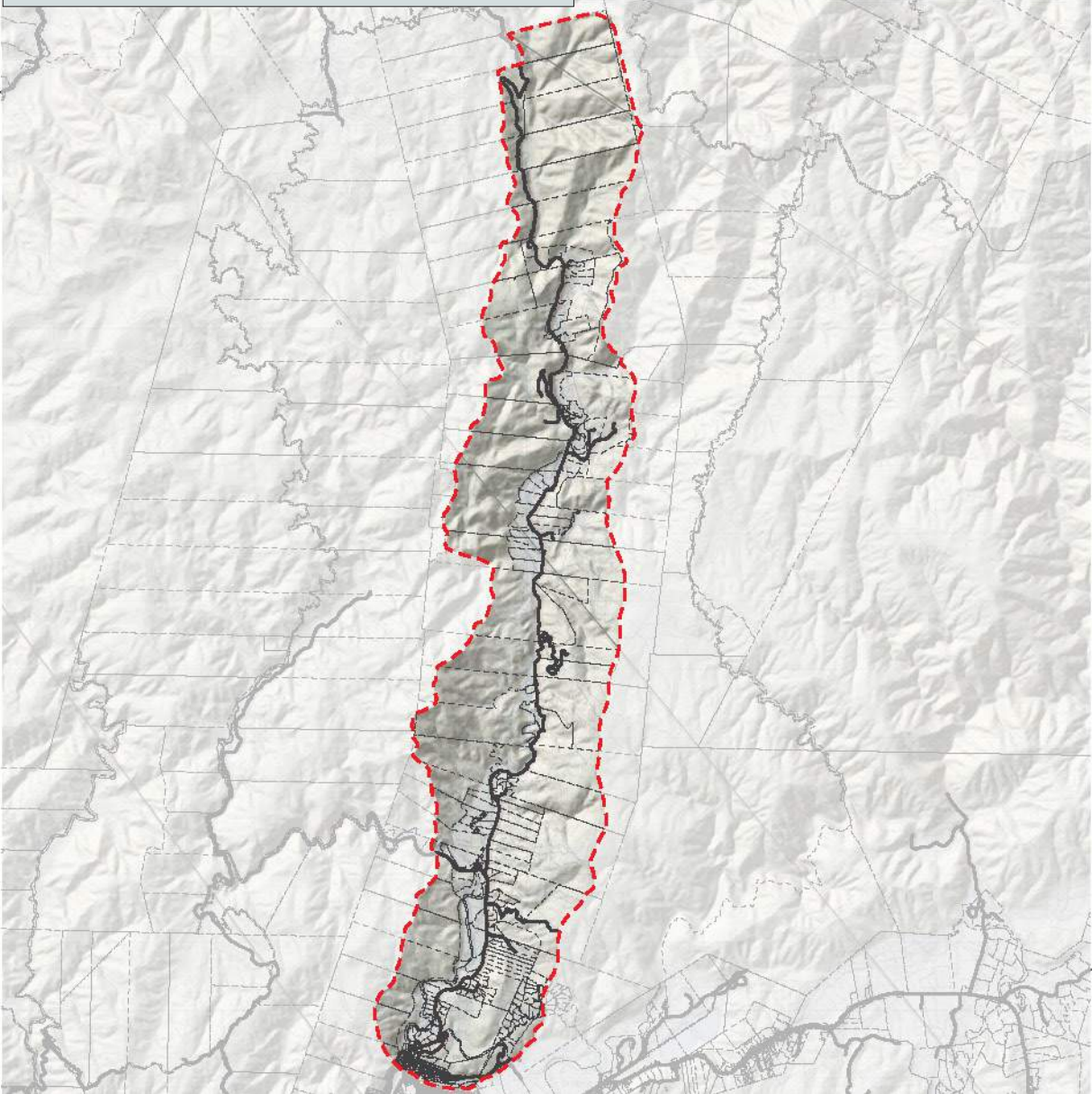


Kaitoke Regional Park. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

AKATARAWA VALLEY

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Incised river gorge with narrow terrace landforms confined by SW-NE trending ridgelines and spurs of the Tararua Ranges and Whakatikei Hills
- Vegetation patterns predominantly forested including remnant and regenerating podocarp forest and plantation forestry, extending up into the Akatarawa Forest Park
- Popular access to the Akatarawa Forest Park, hunting areas and Karapoti track through council Karopoti reserve with well known swimming and trout fishing spots along the river
- Continued sparse rural residential land use characterised by a cooler microclimate and remnant of past settlement for timber mills e.g. at Cloustonville, early coach road connection.
- Important historic transport route for Māori with associations expressed in naming of the river and peaks above it.



AKATARAWA VALLEY



cnr Crest Rd, Akatarawa Valley South. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

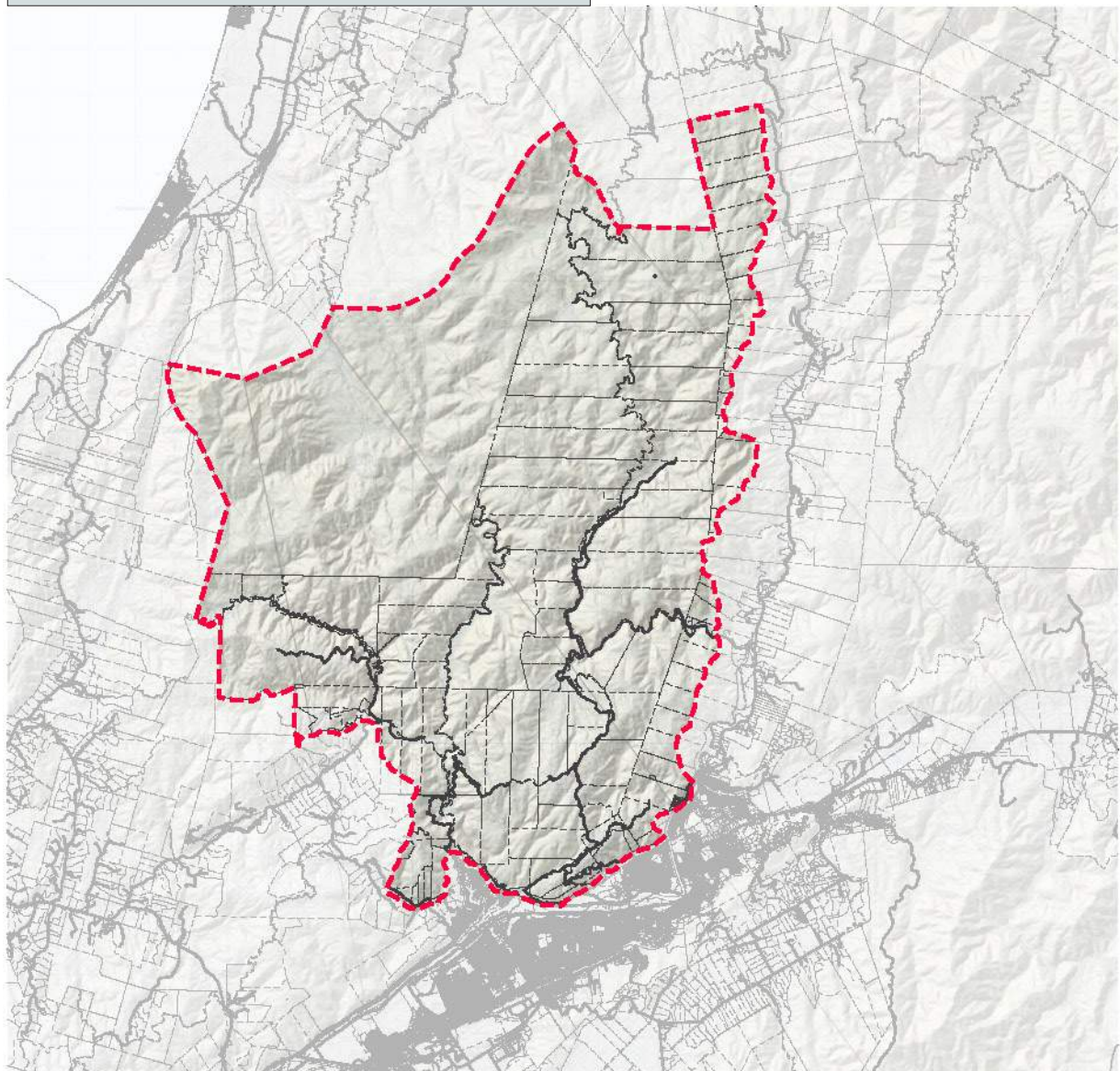


Akatarawa Rd, near Cloustonville. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

WHAKATIKEI HILLS

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Gentler dissected topography (raised peneplains) influenced by the Ohariu and Wellington fault and Whakatikei tributaries
- Contribution to national grid network and possible future water collection
- Well known landmarks - Mt Barton (627m), Wainui (722m- viewed from Kāpiti) and other peaks form the northern boundary to the District. Cannon Point landmark above the Hutt River
- Diverse vegetation patterns following native timber milling and fires to clear the land, including inland indigenous remnants, rare wetlands and substantial plantation forests managed by GWRC
- Recreational links for hunting, 4WD, bike and walking tracks in the GWRC Akatarawa Forest Park and site of Karapoti Classic mountain bike race. DOC Whakatikei Scenic Reserve - Duck Pond
- Largely uninhabited with few public roads
- Historic use by Māori for forest resources and linked to transport routes - to/from Kāpiti Coast



WHAKATIKEI HILLS



Mangaroa Hill Road view towards Mt Barton. Image source: Isthmus Group LTD

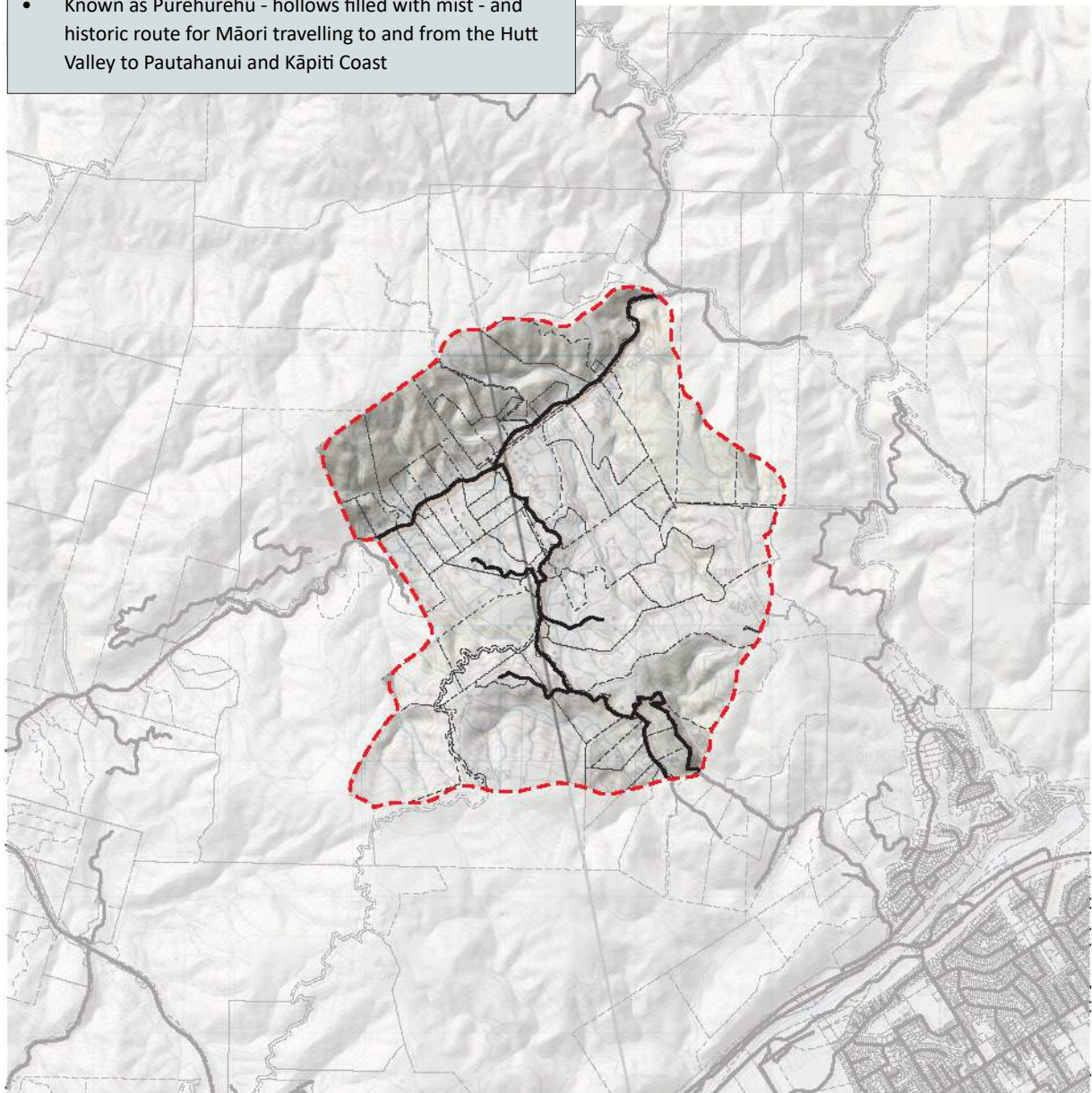


Whakatikei Hills above Te Awakairangi - Hutt River. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

MOONSHINE VALLEY

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Inland areas of an enclosed elevated basin in the Pauatahanui Stream catchment, with tributaries cutting down through Whatatikei Hills (named peak Nabra 431m) to gentler dissected hills (eroded peneplain) and minor terraces with a cooler microclimate. NW boundary marked by national grid line and ridge rising to 468m
- Sense of enclosure and isolation is increased by enclosing spurs to SH58, limited access routes - valley ends only - and narrow winding roads
- Vegetation patterns are predominantly exotic with farming along the hills and rural residential activity along the valley floor
- Popular access to the Akatarawa Forest Park along Bulls Run Rd and route used as a long distance cycling and road running 'loop'
- Established community linked with early farming and saw milling in the district - Greenwood family
- Known as Purehurehu - hollows filled with mist - and historic route for Māori travelling to and from the Hutt Valley to Pautahanui and Kāpiti Coast



MOONSHINE VALLEY



Moonshine Valley. Purehurehu - hollows filled with mist. Image Source: Trayatrailbike.co.nz

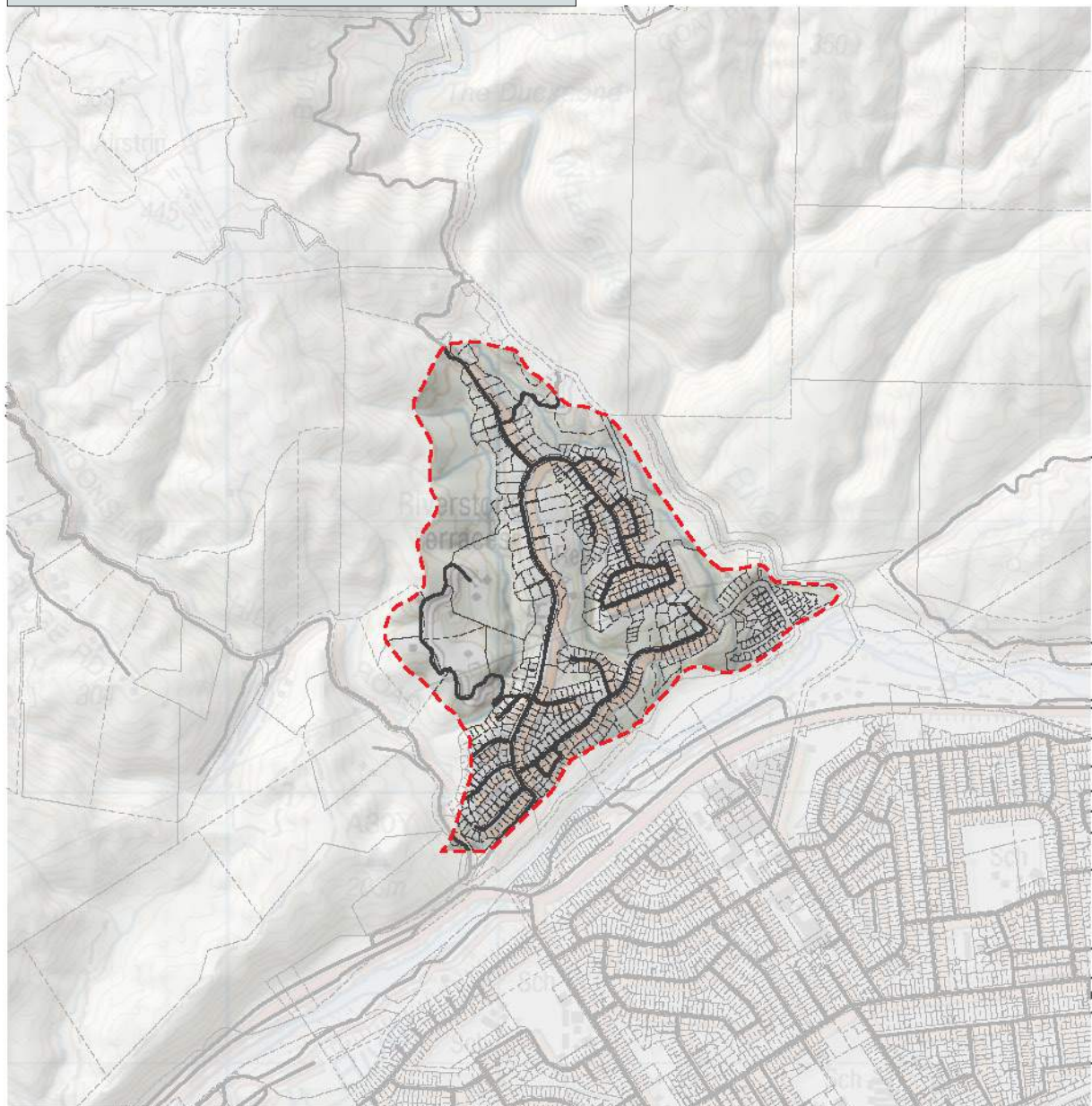


Moonshine Valley. Image Source: Harcourts NZ

HUTT RIVER TERRACE

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

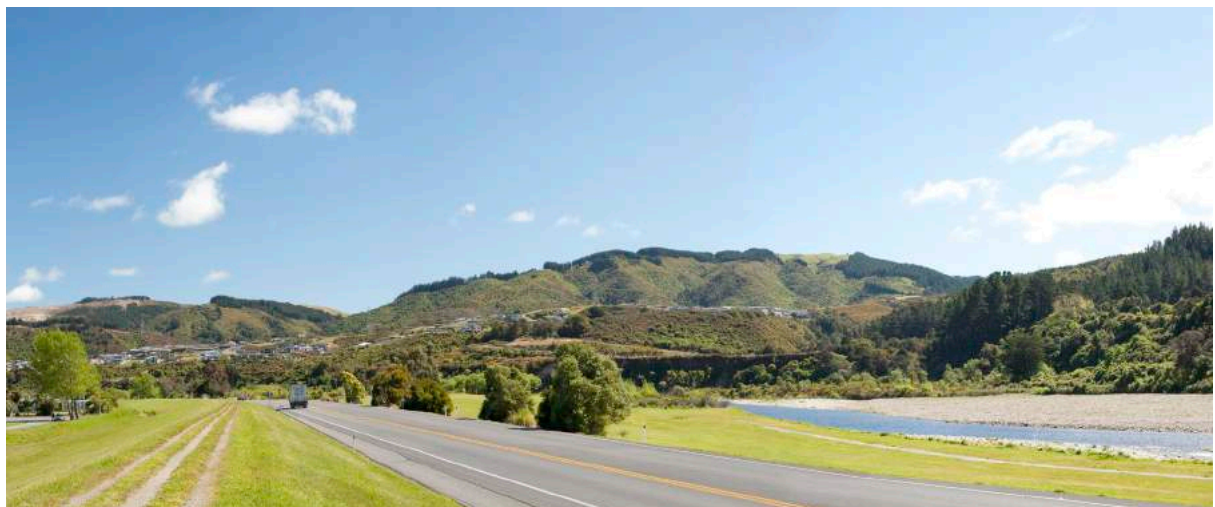
- Well defined elevated river terrace uplifted by the Wellington fault with incised gullies draining into the Whakatkei River and Hutt River (through the western escarpment). Marked by national grid line
- Geological feature: alluvial terrace, moderately well defined landform and distinct landmark along SH2 including elevated residential land use.
- Indigenous vegetation - lowland beech- retained and regenerating in gullies and edges of the river
- Originally cleared for farming (Troup and Moore families) in the 1920's transitioned to residential development in the late 1990's with continued development closer to the river.
- Craigs Flat Reserve and other recreational tracks established as part of the development including more recent links along the Hutt River escarpment and to swimming spots on the Whakatkei River



HUTT RIVER TERRACE



Hutt River Terrace from Poets Park Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

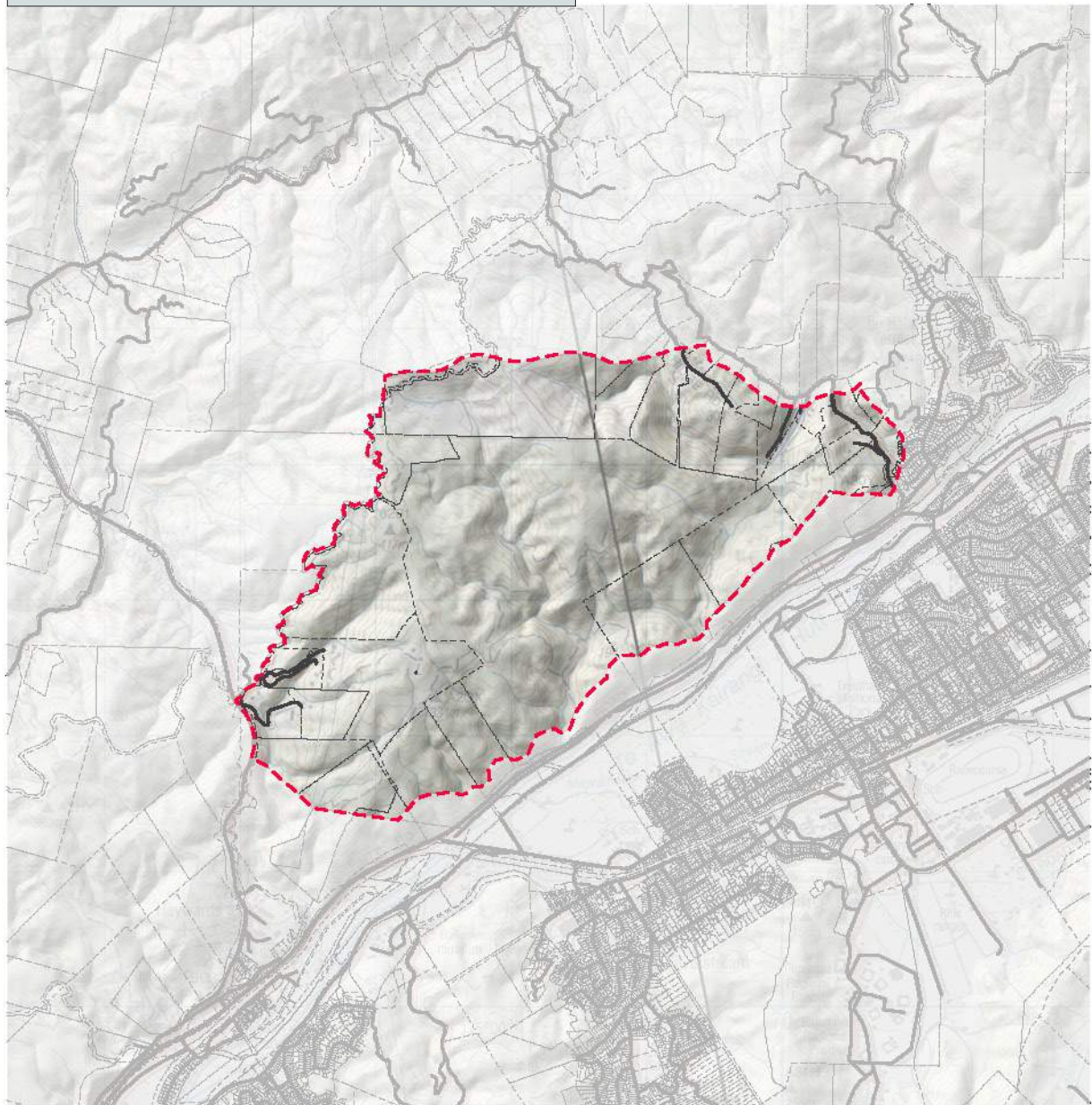


Hutt River Terrace Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

BELMONT HILLS

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Dissected peneplain landforms above the western escarpment, enclosing the Hutt Valley and the Taita Gorge entry to the District. Nabra ridgeline rising the 431m and marked by national grid transmission line- ex SH58 substation
- Majority landcover plantation forestry with farmland to the tops - boundary to the Whakatikei Hills and Moonshine Valley
- Regenerating mānuka/kānuka and beech-tawa forest areas in steeper gulleys and UHCC managed Keith George Memorial Park Reserve with tracks accessed off SH2
- Settlement limited to the edges of Moonshine Valley Road and SH58



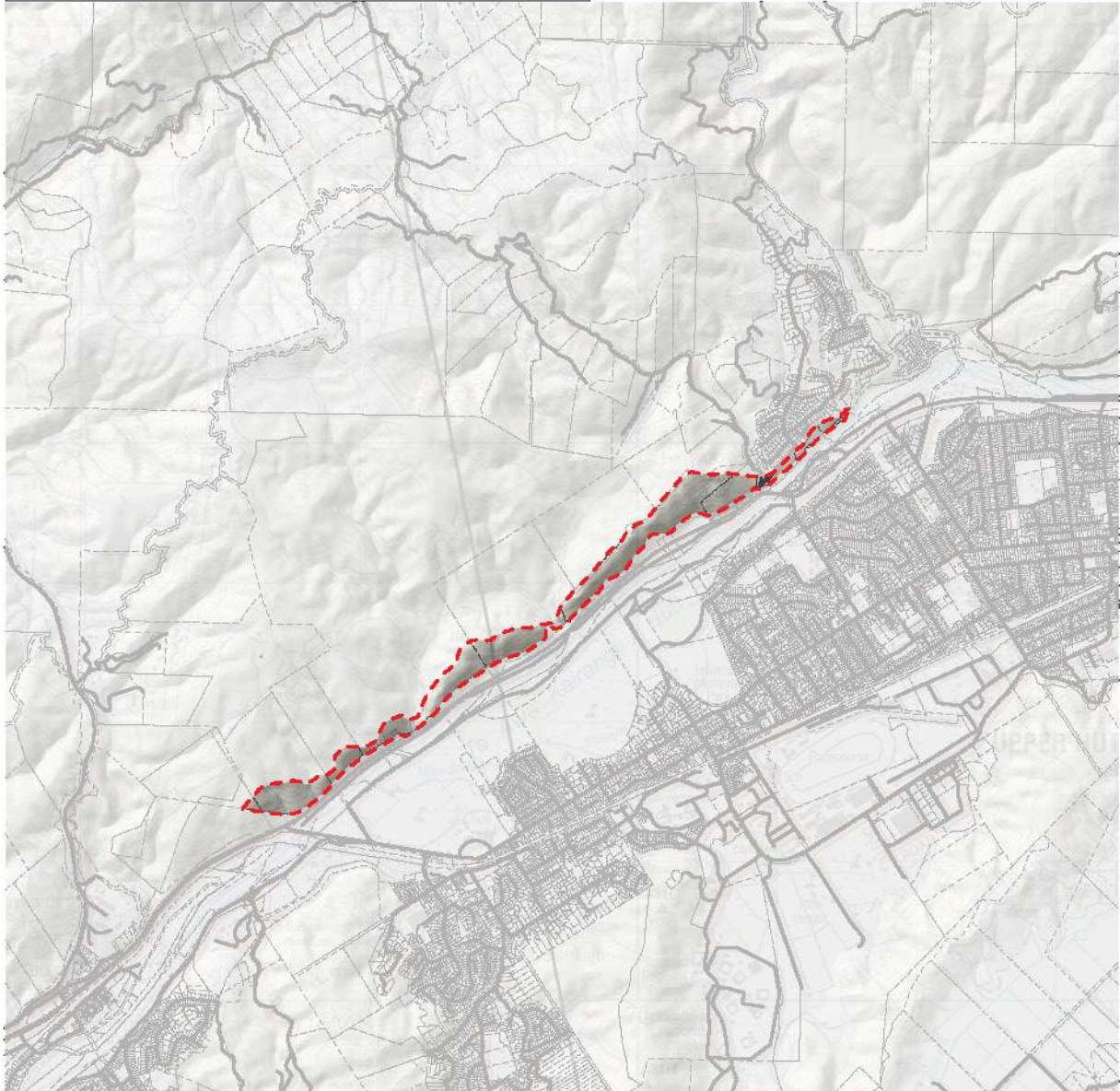
BELMONT HILLS



Belmont Hills above Riverstone Terraces. Image source: Upper Hutt City Council

WESTERN ESCARPMENT

- KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS**
- Steep incline landform expressive of the Wellington fault and defining northern edge to the Hutt Valley rising up to 334m above SH2. Part of sequence of natural and built features that form a gateway to the District.
 - Dissected by tributaries of Te Awa Kairangi and marked by national transmission line grid
 - Immediate escarpment is uninhabited (in contrast to Lower Hutt escarpment) with remnant and regenerating podocarp forest representative of south facing escarpment habitat. Most of the areas are managed by UHCC in the Keith George Memorial Park and Silverstream Scenic Reserve and by DOC in the Trentham Scenic Reserve
 - Tracks accessible via Keith George Memorial Park car park off SH2 and Murdoch Rd end (across Whakatikei River)
 - Backdrop to popular swimming spots and recreation trails along the river - Poets Park



WESTERN ESCARPMENT



Western Escarpment from Silverstream Bridge. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd



Poets Park towards Hutt River Bridge - Western Escarpment. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

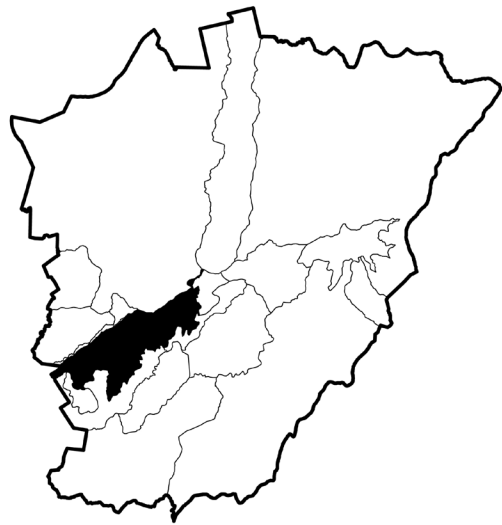


Poets Park- Western Escarpment. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

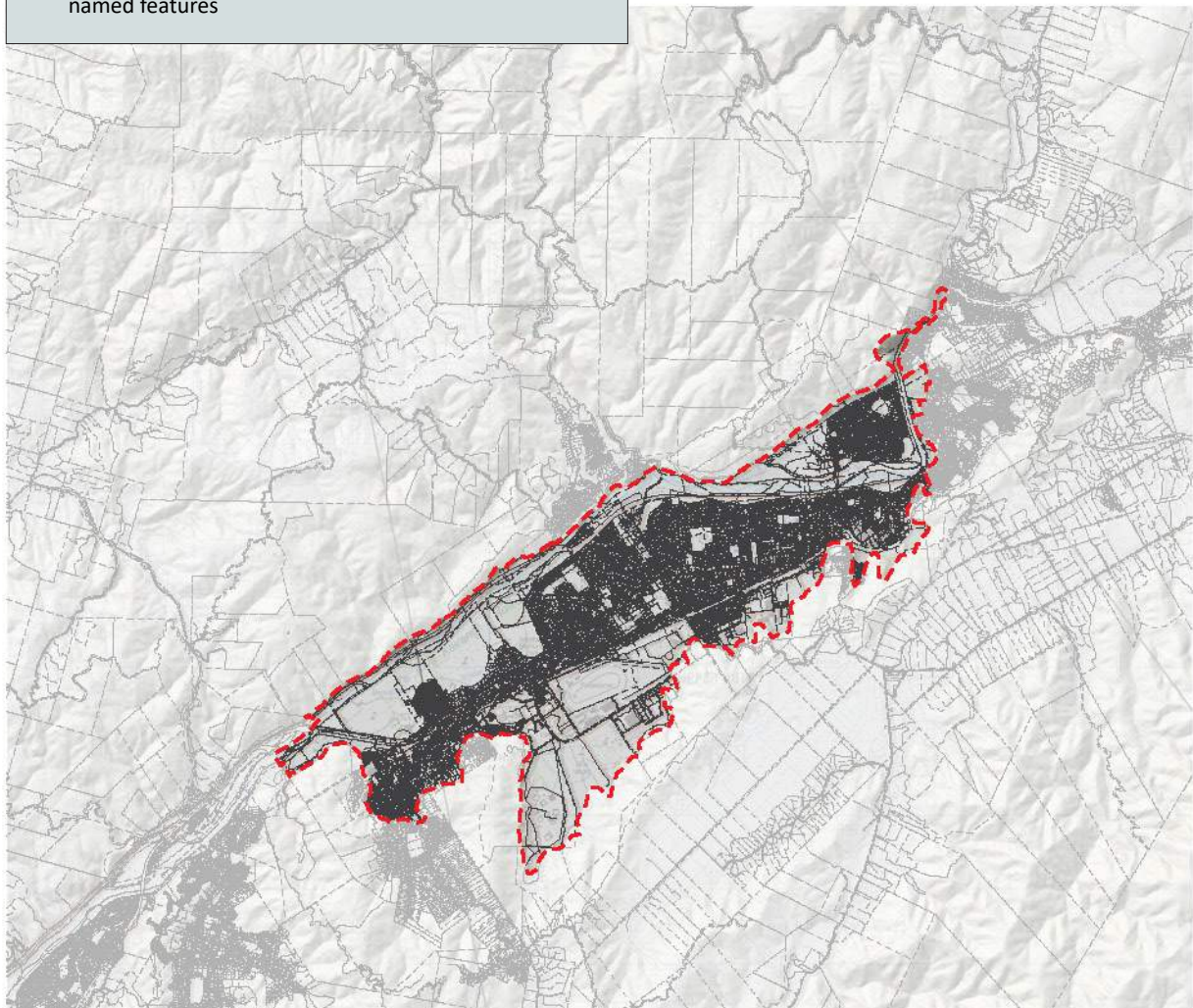
HUTT VALLEY - ORONGOMAI

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Broad river valley confined by the Wellington fault escarpment and Belmont- Whakatikei Hills and the Eastern Hutt Hills; outlier to the Rimutaka Ranges
- Hutt River system flows over some 56km with identified flood zone and protection measures managed by GWRC including stop banks, riparian planting and gravel extraction
- Small pockets of remnant indigenous vegetation along the immediate river corridor and UHCC open space including Wai tako Reserve and Trentham Park - Barton Bush (early European settler)
- Majority of active recreation and amenity open space areas to service urban areas and linked to early uses for recreation Wellington Golf Club (1895) and Trentham Racecourse (1906) linked to WWI, WWII and current NZDF camp. Other undeveloped areas around Rimutaka Prison and past research station - Wallaceville
- Extensive recreational trails and picnic areas along Te Awa Kairangi and popular swimming holes -navigable for milling and trade pre 1855 earthquake
- European settlement expanded after WWII due transport improvement - Upper Hutt City 1965
- Māori settlement, trade and transport linked to Pā and kāinga sites, Te Awa Kairangi - Hutt River and other named features



0 0.5 1.5 2.5 5 Kilometers



HUTT VALLEY - ORONGOMAI



View from Riverstone Terraces towards Hutt Valley. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd



View from Trentham Park, towards Rimutaka. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

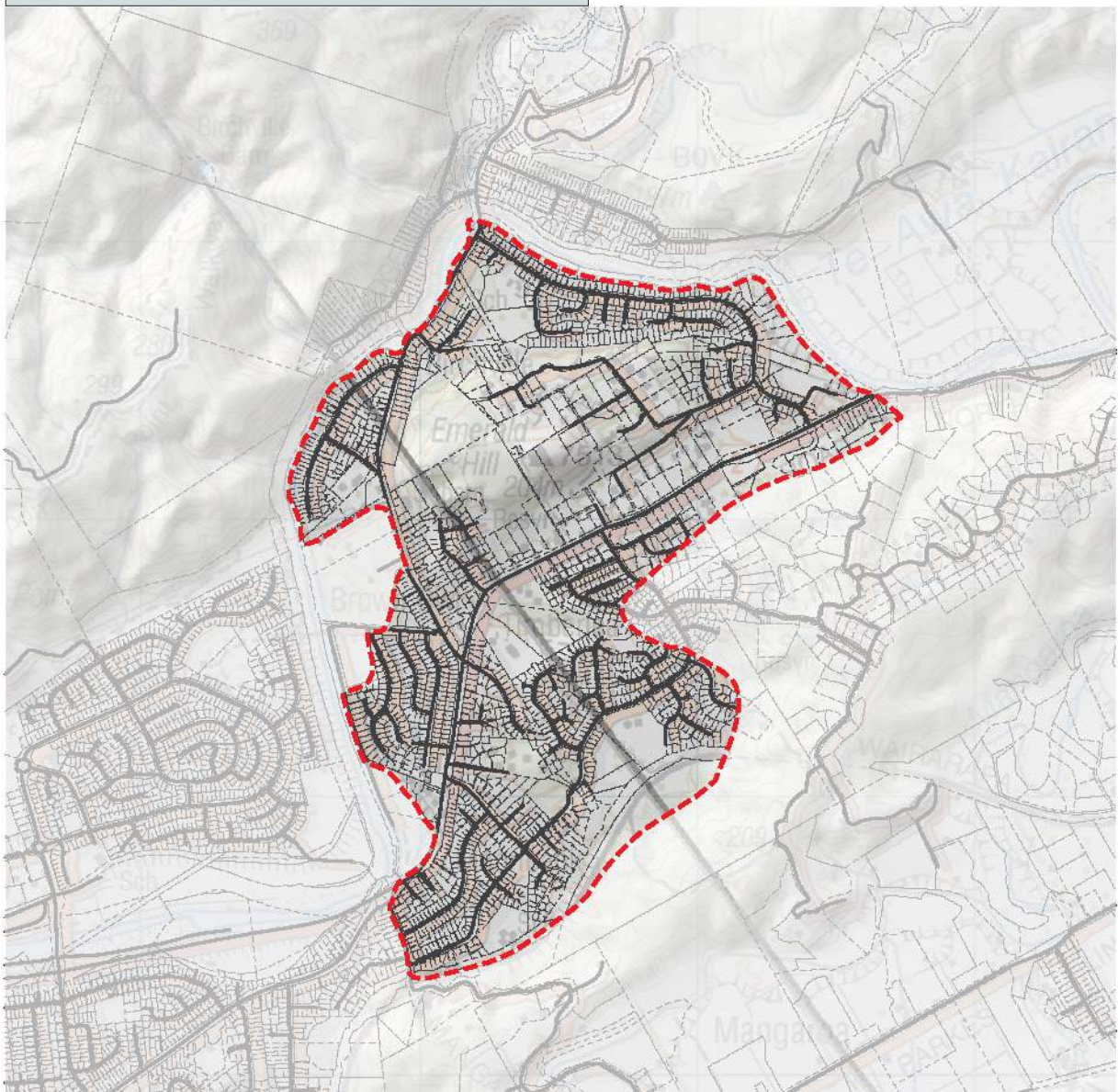


View from Totara Park Bridge, towards Riverstone Terraces. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

EMERALD HILL

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- River terraces and flat topped hill with fault features(Harcourt Park) at northern end of the Hutt Valley, marking the Akatarawa and Hutt River fork and transition from urban to rural residential communities
- 'Emerald Hill' landform separated from prominent spur above Te Marua by distinct curve in the Hutt River and SH2 'pass' with minor areas of regenerating indigenous vegetation in UHCC/DOC Emerald Hill Park
- Gateway to Akatarawa Valley and more incised river flow featuring greywacke rock outcrops not present down stream
- Recreation trails continue through UHCC Te Haukeretu Park and link to historic Birchville Dam (past water supply) and significant areas of open space-UHCC parks
- Current landuse includes river side camp ground more recent housing development alongside SH2 and substation/national grid infrastructure
- Te Haukeretu, past Pā site with suburb 'Māoribank' likely linked to post European settlement in Totara Park area



EMERALD HILL



Emerald Hill Park from Te Haukaretu Park. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

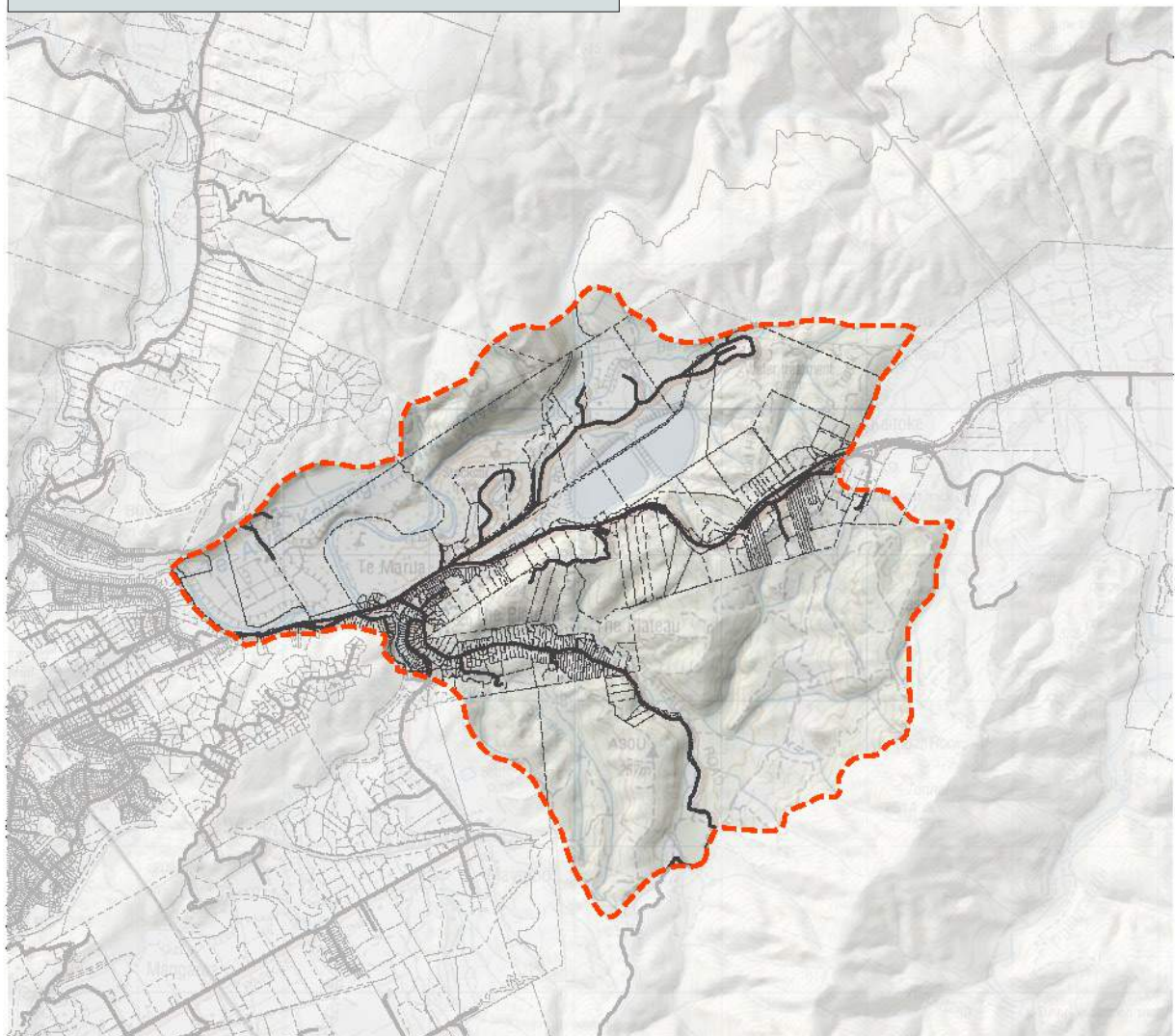


Emerald Hill viewed from Fairview Drive. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

TE MARUA VALLEY

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Alluvial basin and terraces at the Mangaroa-Hutt River fork and transition to more incised Te Awa Kairangi headwaters in the ranges, away from SH2
- Distinct escarpment along northern edge of the valley and earthquake features associated with the Wellington fault
- Separated from Kaitoke Valley - Pakuratahi catchment by Mangaroa Hill- spur off the Rimutaka Ranges - and well known lookout within UHCC Scenic Reserve
- Infrastructure features include reservoirs for the regions drinking water supply and national grid line marking the top of the escarpment
- Indigenous vegetation - beech/kamahi-limited to escarpment edges of the valley and the Tunnel Gully recreation area - part of GWRC Pakuratahi Forest Park
- Recreation opportunities include golf course, speedway and access to GWRC Kaitoke Regional Park, Tunnel Gully and Rimutaka Rail Trail with Kaitoke loop link under SH2
- Te Marua community linked to early milling settlement and rail transport works
- Important historic transport route for Māori with associations expressed in the naming of the river and Whakataka Pā site located near the river forks



TE MARUA VALLEY



Te Maura Valley from SH2 Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd



Te Marua Valley from SH2, lookout. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

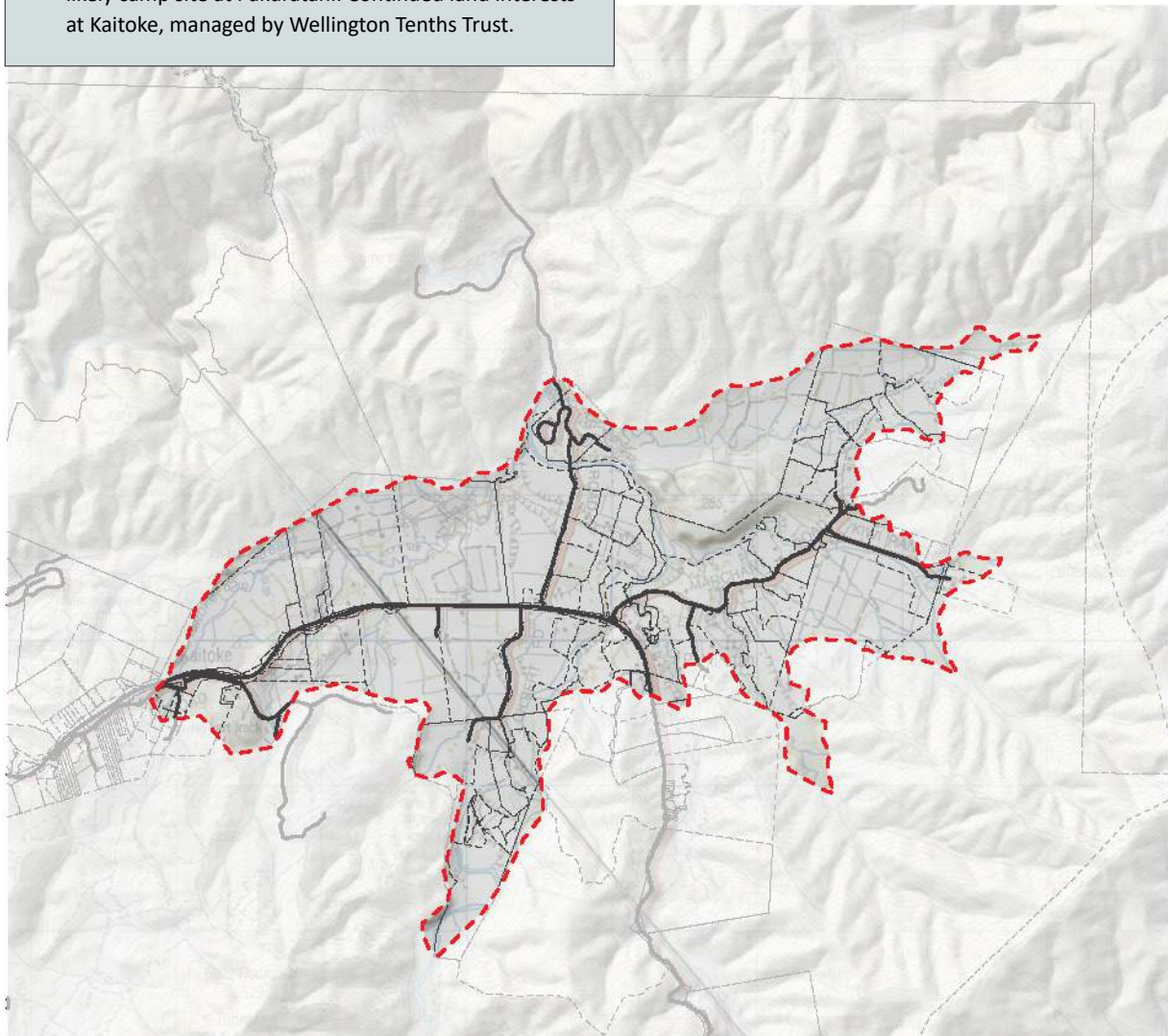


Te Maura Valley from Fairview Drive, Rimutaka Ranges in background Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

KAITOKE VALLEY

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Alluvial basin and terraces associated with the Pakuratahi River and Kaitoke Stream and tectonic activity along the Wellington fault.
- Confined by the backdrop Tararua and Rimutaka Range with significant peaks, often snow clad
- Vegetation patterns typical of continuing rural and larger rural residential blocks; predominantly exotic with areas of forestry on the Rimutaka foothills. Remnant and regenerating indigenous vegetation - beech/podocarp forest - limited to the Tararua foothills and edges of the river - including small stands of tōtara and kahikatea
- Gateway to more remote/wilderness areas of the District and Remutaka Pass-route to the Wairarapa
- Popular access to GWRC Kaitoke Regional Park - camping, swimming, rafting, day walks to water collection area and Rivendell movie set
- Marchant Road access to 'Southern Crossing' and DOC Tararua Forest Park and YMCA outdoor education camp
- Incline Road access to Rimutaka Rail Trail and historic steep incline track in the GWRC Pakauratahi Forest Park
- Important historic transport route for Māori with associations expressed in naming of the area and rivers, likely camp site at Pakuratahi. Continued land interests at Kaitoke, managed by Wellington Tenth Trust.



KAITOKE VALLEY



Kaitoke Regional Park campground. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

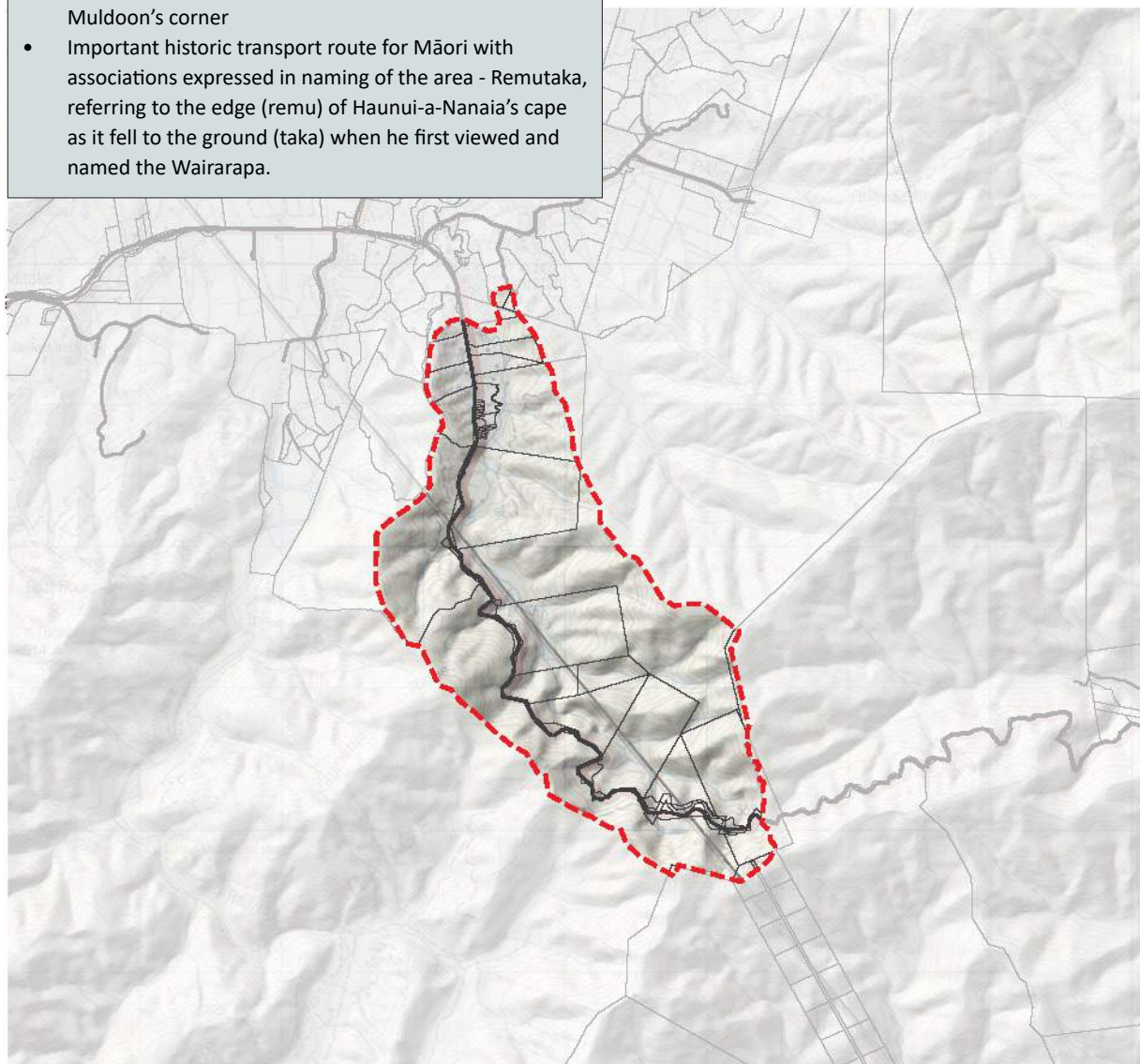


Incline Rd view over Kaitoke Valley to Marchant Ridge. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

REMUTAKA PASS

KEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

- Incised gorge of the Rimutaka Stream and steep spurs joining the Rimutaka and Tararua Ranges
- Well known landmarks including the rock outcrop at Rimutaka Trig - Te Ara Tirohanga (725m)
- Vegetation patterns typical of steep lands and exposed environment with areas impacted by fire in early regeneration and remnants limited to steep gully areas. Exposed tops include sub alpine species
- Steep switch back SH2 access and journey through to the Wairarapa often impacted by snow and strong winds. Historic route for early European explorers and part of Military History - WWI soldiers walking from the Wairarapa, stationed at Maymorn before departing to the front.
- Popular lookout and short walk at Remutaka Pass (555m) and to Te Ara Tirohanga and its extension along the 'back road' to the Rimutaka Rail Trail
- Settlement confined to immediate edges of the road near the valley floor and linked to past road construction (route opened 1856). Continued improvements mark engineering endeavour and political era's - e.g. Muldoon's corner
- Important historic transport route for Māori with associations expressed in naming of the area - Remutaka, referring to the edge (remu) of Haunui-a-Nanaia's cape as it fell to the ground (taka) when he first viewed and named the Wairarapa.



REMUTAKA PASS



Remutaka Hill Pass. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd



Remutaka Hill Pass. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd



LANDSCAPE VALUES AND SIGNIFICANCE



Wi Tako Reserve, Davis Field from Messines Ave. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Part 3 Landscape Values and Significance

In the next stage of the assessment process, the key characteristics of each LCA (Part 2) were analysed to identify possible ONFL and SAL areas; where there is a 'cluster' of factors contributing to landscape values that have the potential to meet the overall evaluation tests. This process included further desktop study and site work, in the latter half of 2017, to identify landscape 'candidates' as well as research to identify factors that contribute to landscape values²⁶, as guided by best practice, case law and the RPS (see Appendix 1), set out In Policy 25 and Policy 27, as below.

"a) Natural science values - these values relate to the geological, topographical, ecological and natural process components of the natural feature or the landscape including representativeness, research and education, rarity and ecosystem functioning;

b) Aesthetic values -these values relate to scenic perceptions of the feature or landscape including coherence, vividness and naturalness;

c) Expressiveness (legibility)- the feature or landscape clearly shows the formative processes that led to its existing character;

d) Transient values - the consistent and noticeable occurrence of transient natural events, such as seasonal change in vegetation or in wildlife movement, contributes to the character of the feature or landscape;

e) Shared and recognised -the feature is widely known and is highly valued for its contribution to local identity within the immediate and wider community

f) Tangata whenua values - Māori values inherent in the feature or landscape add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special place.

g) Historical associations: knowledge of historical events that occurred in and around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community attaches to the natural feature or landscape."

These factors are aligned, and have their origins in, the 'amended Pigeon Bay,' or 'WESI' factors established through case law²⁷ and they are consistent with the factors addressed in the NZILA Landscape Assessment Practice Note²⁸.

Varied sources of information were used to build up a better understanding of these interrelated components, including GIS data and studies of the District such as the draft ecological assessment of significant natural areas on private land, the past landscape based study of the southern hills as well as District focused print and web publications, marketing and 'place making' media, local artwork and museum displays. In the identification of sensory factors, aesthetic conventions and relevant landscape perception studies were also considered. These data sources and studies are further detailed in **Appendix 2**.

²⁶ Landscape values may be defined as an "enduring conception of the preferable which influences choice and action". Stephenson, J. (2007). Many Perceptions one landscape. In Landscape Review. Vol 11(2) p11. Under the RMA, values can be identified in all landscapes; not just those that may be subsequently evaluated as ONFL and SAL.

²⁷ The amended Pigeon Bay Criteria include but are not restricted to: the natural science factors - the geological, topographical, ecological and dynamic components of the landscape; its aesthetic values including memorability and naturalness; its expressiveness (legibility): how obviously the landscape demonstrates the formative processes leading to it; transient values: occasional presence of wildlife; or its values at certain times of the day or of the year; whether the values are shared and recognised; its value to tangata whenua; its historical associations. Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council, C180/99, page 49 (original reference Handbook of Environmental Law 2004).

²⁸ NZILA Best Practice Note-Landscape Assessment and Sustainable Management 10.1 https://nzila.co.nz/media/uploads/2017_01/nzila_Idas_v3.pdf

Subsequent stages of the landscape study, including key stakeholder and wider public consultation, may amend and add to the list of relevant factors identified in this report. This process of review and the importance of community involvement is aligned with the Courts ‘WESI factors’ decision which states that:

“We should add that we do not regard this list as frozen - it may be improved with further use and understanding”²⁹

Natural Science Factors

Values associated with natural science factors relate to the geology, topography, ecology, hydrology and the dynamic components of the landscape.

Natural science factors are likely to contribute to landscape values where they typify the character a District, or are important in terms of research and education, are rare or unique, clearly illustrate the land formation processes, are prominent, and/or expressive of geological or ecological processes or seasonal and irregular events.

Both abiotic (non living) and biotic (living) factors are considered with varied information sources used. Findings from regional or district wide significant natural area (SNA) assessment (concerned with the identification of areas with ecologically significant indigenous flora and fauna) are **one** source of information that is relevant to the identification of relevant natural science factors. For the Upper Hutt District, an SNA study is in process, with draft findings for private land provided by Wildlands Consultants in 2017. This SNA study has been used to assist in the identification of factors contributing to representativeness, research and education, rarity, and ecosystem functioning. A whole District (private and public land) SNA study, is to be completed in 2018. This will be used along with key stakeholder and community consultation, to help confirm the findings of the landscape study.

Sensory Factors

Aesthetic values

Aesthetic values are generated by concepts or commonly held perspectives of what is pleasing in appearance, demonstrates beauty or good taste (concise Oxford Dictionary). While these concepts are likely to vary somewhat between individuals, aesthetic theories or conventions are relevant to a district wide assessment; as they provide cues to the factors in a landscape that are likely to be commonly accepted as ‘pleasing in appearance’. The information processing theory of aesthetics³⁰, as referenced in the RPS assessment guidance, (see **Appendix 1**) is often used to further interpret and assess scenic value; as due to coherence (well integrated, consistent) and vividness (what is memorable). Other aesthetic conventions (as discussed in more detail in **Appendix 2**), that are relevant to the Upper Hutt City District landscapes, are linked to the conventions of the sublime, picturesque and scenic values of the rural or ‘working landscape’.

Non visual cues to landscape values are also considered in the assessment, and this reflects a considerable body of research linking memory (what is vivid) to senses other than sight. In particular,

²⁹ Wakatipu Environmental Society Incorporated vs Queenstown Lakes District Council (C180/099)

³⁰ Where it is assumed that people prefer landscapes that can be readily understood and encourage exploration. Nubisi, F. (2002). Assessment of landscape values as landscape perception. Chapter 7 In *Ecological Planning: A comparative and historical analysis*. Baltimore: John Hopkins Press.

where landscapes or features can be associated with sound and scent, they are likely to be more memorable. For example, the presence of water, and its dynamic qualities, perceived through sight, sound, taste, scent and touch, is recognised as a key component of more memorable features and landscapes³¹.

Conceptions of naturalness, and of what contributes to natural character, (as discussed in more detail in **Appendix 2** of this report) forms a further important consideration in the assessment of aesthetic value; as required under the RPS.

Expressiveness (legibility)

Landscape values are associated with the formative processes leading to it and the extent to which the natural formative processes, particularly geomorphology, are evident in the landscape. Values associated with expressiveness can also be generated by perceptions of landscape legibility. That is, where the formative processes make it easier to 'read' the landscape and create a clear 'mental map' of the District's nodes, edges, pathways and landmarks, as discussed further in **Appendix 2**.

Transient values

Valued transient factors are generally associated with climatic and other seasonal events in vegetation patterns or wildlife, and are linked to an aesthetic preference for naturalness. For example, transient values will be recognised where there are distinct and noticeable changes in the water flow or forms (snow), vegetation or migratory patterns of wildlife.

Shared or recognised factors

Shared and recognised values

Where an area and particular landscape factors are widely known and valued for their contribution to the District's identity and sense of place and may be recognised by particular disciplines or by planning authorities. This includes a consideration of factors that are valued for recreational use, that are commonly represented in media to market or show-case a District and those aspects of a landscape that are noted, to be of importance, in the District and Regional Plans, such as heritage buildings and outstanding water bodies. Factors recognised by professional, public and private communities of interest such as the NZ Geological Society, are also relevant to the identification of shared and recognised values. These groups have varying interests and in-depth knowledge of a particular area, contributing to the range of natural science, sensory and shared and recognised factors that are valued in a landscape.

31 Bowring, J. (2006). The Smell of Memory: Sensorial Mnemonics: *The Landscape Architect: IFLA conference papers*. Accessed May 2009. http://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/dspace/bitstream/10182/623/1/Bowring_IFLA_2006.pdf

Tangata Whenua values

Where there are factors present in a landscape that are of cultural or spiritual value to Māori and, in particular the iwi and hapu of Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa (see **Part 1**), this adds to the evaluation of significance.

While some of the factors contributing to values to tangata whenua are publicly documented or widely known, and there are statutory acknowledgements attached to the District Plan, less is written about the history and continuing relationship of Māori in the Upper Hutt District; and this made early consultation doubly important. As part of the technical assessment, meetings were held with Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa to make sure that this aspect of landscape was adequately addressed. This included opportunities to review and amend the summary description of Māori settlement - early years, key characteristics of LCA, candidate landscapes and the assessment records and relative significance of tangata whenua values for ONFL and SAL. Sites of significance to Taranaki Whānui, documented in preparation for a separate plan change process, were also provided by PNT to help assist the landscape study. The GWRC proposed Natural Resource Plan and management plans for its Parks and Treaty of Waitangi deeds of settlement and proceeding documents are also informative of the continuing relationship of mana whenua with the District's landscapes.

Historical associations

Where an area can be connected with documented, or widely known, past patterns of settlement, economic, social or cultural endeavour, or significant events, this adds to the value communities associate with it. Historical associations for Māori, resulting from mythology, settlement, trade, transport, important events and ancestors links to a landscape, are important factors addressed under tangata whenua values in the assessment record sheets. So as not to 'double count', post pākehā contact factors are addressed under historical associations - where the landscape is marked or linked to early transport, settlement, economic and public endeavours as well as notable figures of the community.

The Assessment Factors

The factors considered in the identification of landscape values, as set out in the RPS, are listed (in quotes) below, along with further explanation, as drawn from best practice assessment guidance.

Natural Science factors

Explanation

Natural Science Values

“These values relate to the geological, ecological, topographical, and natural process components of the natural feature or landscape:

i) Representativeness

The combination of natural components that form the feature of landscape strongly typifies the character of an area”.

Extent to which the natural patterns and processes are clearly evident in the feature or landscape (e.g. uplift, geothermal activity) and whether they are intact

Extent to which the feature or landscape and the natural elements, patterns and processes within it typifies or characterises a particular district (i.e. the best example)

ii) Research and education

All or parts of the feature or landscape are important for natural science research and education”

Extent to which natural elements, patterns or processes in these landscapes or features are recognised by research and educational institutions and help demonstrate theories and concepts relevant to a particular discipline, for example, fault activity or post glacial erosion

iii) Rarity

The feature of landscape is unique or rare within the district or region, and comparable few examples exist”

Extent to which the feature or landscape and the natural elements, patterns and processes within it are exemplary or under threat (e.g. largest, most unusual, most rare) as identified by national/regional assessment guidance.

iv) Ecological functioning

“The presence of healthy ecosystems is clearly evident in the landscape or feature”

Extent to which the landforms are unmodified and the patterns of hydrology, areas of indigenous vegetation or patterns of indigenous fauna are ecologically or environmentally significant and unmodified as identified by national/regional assessment guidance.

Sensory Factors

Aesthetics values

Explanation

“These values relate to scenic perceptions of the feature or landscape”

Aesthetic values relate to qualities of a feature or landscape that are “pleasing in appearance, demonstrates beauty or good taste” (concise Oxford Dictionary)

i) Coherence

“The patterns of land cover and landuse are in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of landform and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or landuse.”

Extent to which the cultural and natural elements fit together, reinforce each other, and are perceived as one entity i.e. are legible as an integrated coherent system

Extent to which the natural formative processes, particularly geomorphology, are evident in the feature or landscape and clearly expressed through landcover and landuse

ii) Vividness

“The feature or landscape is visually striking and is widely recognised within the local and wider community for its memorable and sometimes iconic qualities”

Extent to which the feature or landscape is visually striking, engages the other senses which contribute to memorability; through scent, sound and touch and is widely recognised within the community, including being iconic

Extent to which the landscape can be associated with aesthetic conventions such as the picturesque or the sublime or as a continuing rural or ‘working’ landscape

iii) Naturalness

“The feature or landscape appears largely unmodified by human activity and the patterns of landform and landcover appear to largely intact and healthy natural systems”

Extent to which the feature or landscape is perceived as natural and exemplifying pristine or cultured nature contributing to the assessment of degree of natural character

Expressiveness

“The feature or landscape clearly shows the formative processes that led to its existing character”

Extent to which the feature or landscape is important to people’s mental maps: (as a distinct district, landmark, pathway, edge, node or viewpoint)

Significance of the feature or landscape as part of a spatial sequence (for instance as a memorable area or mark along a transport route)

Transient values

“The consistent and noticeable occurrence of transient natural events such as seasonal change in vegetation or in wildlife movement, contributes to the character of the feature or landscape ”

Extent to which the feature or landscape might have special value from time to time due to transient conditions such as the presence of wildlife, seasonal or periodic conditions such as changes to water flow

Shared or Recognised Factors

Explanation

Shared and recognised values

“The feature or landscape is widely known and is highly valued for its contribution to local identity within the immediate and wider community”

The extent to which the values associated with the feature or landscape are shared and recognised and contribute to a clear “sense of place” and a district’s identity. This can be evidenced through e.g.: heritage schedules in District Plans; national organisations such as the Geological Society of NZ; and other digital and printed material including non-fictional or literary publications, art, the naming of features and other signs of shared recognition such as the extent of recreational use

Tangata whenua values

“Māori values inherent in the feature or landscape add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special place”

Extent to which the physical, perceptual and associative values identified in an area are significant to Maori resulting from; past and present patterns of settlement, transportation, significant events or activity, spirituality and mythology and links to important ancestors.

Historical Associations

“Knowledge of historical events that occurred in and around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community attaches to the natural feature or landscape.”

Extent to which the elements, patterns and processes found within the feature or landscape have become, over time, an icon, or a distinguishing symbol for the District (also linked to perceptual values)

Extent to which important past and continuing patterns of settlement, transportation, activity or events and their associated elements, patterns and processes can be connected with that feature or landscape

Landscapes and the Resource Management Act

In the final stages of the technical assessment, there is a process to assign value and relative significance to the contributing factors identified in each 'candidate' landscape and an overall assessment to distinguish areas as:

- **Outstanding natural features and landscapes** - ONFL;
- **Special amenity landscapes** - SAL; or

Other landscapes in the District, not able to meet the ONFL or SAL tests have not been identified in this technical assessment.

Outstanding natural features and landscapes

These landscapes are recognised as one of the *"Matters of national importance"* under Section 6 of the RMA:

"all persons exercising functions and powers under it (the Act) in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for:

b) the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development."

Many ONFL will also have status under Section 6a) of the Act", as they are associated with the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes and rivers.

"all persons exercising functions and powers under (the Act) in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for:

a) the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development."

The definition of ONFL, in the context of the RMA, has its origins in the Concise Oxford Dictionary definition of 'outstanding' as being 'exceptionally good' and 'clearly noticeable'. The term 'outstanding' has been further defined in case law and in the context of Section 6b) as:

"conspicuous, eminent, especially because of excellence, remarkable"³².

The RPS provides further guidance as to the two stage test for ONFL areas as:

a) "exceptional or out of the ordinary;

b) that its natural components dominate over the influence of human activity"

The degree of natural character or naturalness that can be attributed to a landscape is the first test to be met. This means there is a need to identify an appropriate definition of naturalness and natural character, as further detailed in **Appendix 2**, and a benchmark as to the types of landscapes which would qualify as 'natural enough'. Case law and adopted ONFL assessments have confirmed that, in the context of a particular District, ONFL areas can include areas of extensive pastoral or rural landuse with varied landcover and exotic plantation forests. That is: 'natural enough' does not equate to pristine or

³² Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council, C180/99, page 47 (original reference Handbook of Environmental Law 2004)

unmodified, rather, in order that natural components dominate, best practice guidance requires natural science and natural character values to be clearly evident or more than moderate (on a 7 point scale of relative significance - as detailed further below). Case law also confirms that a landscape need not be considered 'eminent' on all counts, or in all factors, and provides further guidance as to the importance of both the technical and consultative or community input in the assessment of ONFL areas. Both are required to identify the landscapes that are 'natural enough' and 'eminent' in a particular District.

'usually an outstanding landscape should be so obvious in general terms that there is no need for expert analysis.. although there still needs to be rigorous analysis'³³

Special amenity landscapes

Special amenity features and landscapes are recognised through Section 7 of the Resource Management Act which is concerned with "Other matters". Their status is related to Section 7c), in particular. That is:

"all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall have particular regard to:

c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values."

Following direction from the Interpretation section of the Act, special amenity landscapes will be associated with amenity values:

"those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes."

Relevant case law guidance also notes that amenity values are not confined to sight, and can be derived from experiencing other senses such as scent, touch, warmth, sound, and space.³⁴

Significant amenity landscapes have been distinguished where the assessment process has identified a 'cluster' factors that contribute to amenity, as defined in Section 2 of the RMA, and through an overall evaluation process; as guided by the RPS. SAL are identified where a landscape is or has:

" a) highly valued but not clearly exceptional landscape values, in an area where the natural components of a landscape dominate; or

b) highly valued including exception landscape values, in an area where the modification of landscape by human activity is a dominant influence on landscape character."

33 Campbell and Ors v Cross Air Spread Ltd, Southland District Council and Walker, W114/94 (original reference handbook of Environmental Law 2004) p.57

34 Campbell and Ors v Cross Air Spread Ltd, Southland District Council and Walker, W114/94 (original reference Handbook of Environmental Law 2004)

Identifying ONFL and SAL

Where a 'cluster' of natural science, sensory and/or shared or recognised factors contributing to landscape values were identified in a particular landscape within a character area, these areas were investigated as ONFL and SAL 'candidates'. Further site work and research was then used to document contributing factors in assessment record sheets; to provide a qualitative description that could assist the assessment. As an additional tool of analysis, these factors were then assessed against 7 point relative significance scale - very low, low, low-moderate, moderate, moderate-high, high, very high. That is: the natural science, aesthetic, expressiveness, transient, shared and recognised, tangata whenua values and historical associations of each 'candidate' area were distinguished in order to establish their relative significance (RS) within the context District. The overall significance of the landscape values was then evaluated holistically using the 'tests' established in the RPS. This evaluation considers the overall significance of the landscape, as more than the sum of its factors and value parts, to distinguish outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity landscapes within the District (see Part 4 and 5).

This integrative approach recognises that the different components of landscape are interrelated. While it can be a useful analytical tool to separate out landscape values and the factors that contribute to them into the categories of natural science, sensory and shared and recognised, these aspects of landscape are interrelated and need to be considered together in identifying ONFL and SAL.

The Environment Court also acknowledges that while the WESI factors fall into categories relating on the one hand to the physical landscape and on the other to how people perceive it, in other words while there is a loose two part definition of landscape, there is an inherent overlap.³⁵ In addition, the Environment Court notes that the WESI factors are not 'frozen' and can be added to or amended depending on the context.

*"We should add that we do not regard this list as frozen-it may be improved with further use and understanding.."*³⁶

In this study, and as directed by the RPS, a three part (natural science, sensory, shared or recognised) approach to the evaluation of landscape values follows and adds to the direction of the WESI factors in dealing with *shared and recognised factors, tangata whenua values, and historical associations*. These shared or recognised factors provide a useful distinction between the scientific and sensory dimensions of landscape that are largely to do measurable characteristics with visual attributes and human physiology (and which might be relatively consistent between different cultures and communities), and those aspects more closely tied to the cultural and community values, identity and history of a particular place.

Outstanding natural features and landscapes have been distinguished where the assessment process has identified that the natural elements, patterns and process are dominant ('natural enough') and there are landscape value/s that are 'conspicuous, eminent, especially because of excellence, remarkable'; as is consistent with the RPS.

³⁵ Roughly [criteria] (a) and (d) correspond to what is seen or perceived; and (b) (c), and (e) to (g) to how people perceive it". Paragraph 72, C180/99 Wakatipu Environmental Society v The Queenstown-Lakes District Council

³⁶ Wakatipu Environment Society Inc. v Queenstown Lakes District Council, C180/99

Special amenity landscapes have been distinguished where the assessment process has identified a 'cluster' of landscape values that contribute to amenity, that are highly valued by the community and where natural elements, patterns and processes are dominant *or* where there are 'eminent' values but the landscape is clearly modified by human activity; as is consistent with the RPS.

Mapping features and landscapes

Following best practice guidance, the physical extent of each ONFL and SAL is determined at a broad (1:200,000) district wide scale. Working at this scale, the boundaries have been aligned, as accurately as possible, with the physical extent of the factors that, overall, meet the tests required to be identified as an ONFL and SAL. Patterns of land ownership are not considered relevant in the determination of landscape boundaries, nor, in general, are cadastral boundaries; unless they follow topography or vegetation patterns.

While underlying patterns of landform are used as the primary basis to distinguish boundaries, these can be influenced or 'blurred' where there are gradual changes in topography and by landcover and landuse patterns, which may also help to define a landscapes extent. This means, in practical terms and as is often observed on the ground 'in the landscape', there is a zone of transition rather than a hard and definitive edge to most ONFL or SAL.

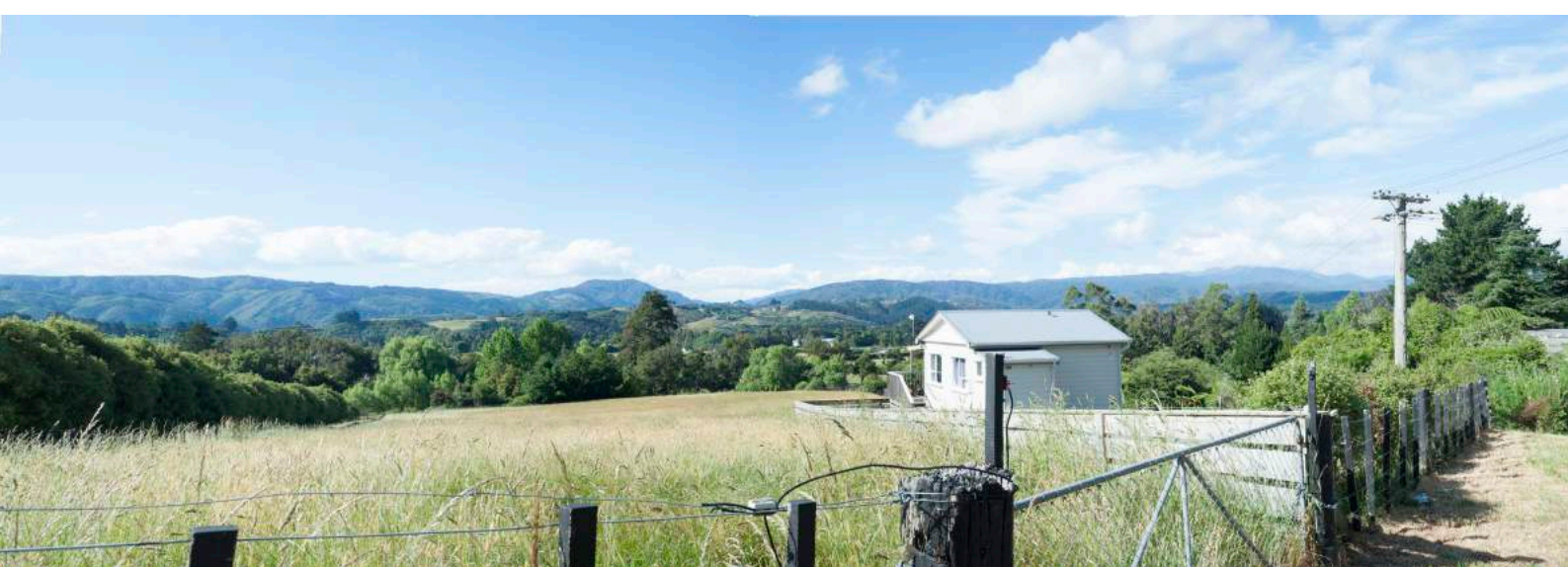
Further field work to 'ground truth' boundaries will occur in the next stages of the assessment through the consultation process, but is also not without limitations. At the micro scale, and when the observer is actually in the landscape, a clear location for boundaries can become difficult to determine. Ground-truthing of all landscape boundaries may not be possible due to access constraints or provide any further information about the range of factors (natural science, sensory and shared or recognised) that need to be considered; as they are not always immediately apparent or visible. In addition, availability of appropriate vantage points often limits the value of site work to particular properties; where there are few locations within the property from which a broader view of the landscape and its edges can be gained.

Limitations of this assessment process

This technical report forms part of a larger process being used to identify the Districts ONFL and SAL; of which consultation forms an important part. To date, there has been input and feedback from mana whenua, as required to consider tangata whenua values, and an expert review of ecological values. Further landowner, key stakeholder and wider community consultation is planned in 2018, as part of the process required to prepare for a proposed change to the District Plan. The ONFL and SAL identified in this report represent a professional opinion generated through a methodical and rationalised process that is consistent with RPS and best practice guidance that can be used to help inform wider community input.

- The natural science, sensory and shared and recognised factors used in this assessment, although recognised in the Environment Court, are not ‘frozen’ or definitively relevant to this context. Key stakeholder and community consultation may also determine alternative or additional factors that are more specific to the Upper Hutt District.

The assessment of landscape is complex. It considers interwoven factors and requires an overall evaluation with ONFL and SAL identified in the context of a particular District. This means it is necessarily subjective. What is important is that the process and methodology is clear and consistent with established best practice; so that it can assist community input to provide further checks and balances. It is important that the identification of ONFL and SAL is established through the integration of expert opinion and consultation, to provide a robust and defensible consensus on the District’s ONFL and SAL areas, as a basis for a planning framework that reflects their status under the RMA in the context of the Upper Hutt District.



View towards Mt Barton, from Mangaroa Road. Image Source: Isthmus Group Ltd

OUTSTANDING NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES



Te Awakairangi River- Hutt River -Kaitoke Regional Park. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Part 4 Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

Outstanding natural features and landscapes (ONFL) - have been identified within the Rimutaka Ranges, Tararua Ranges and Whakatikei Hills character areas. There were no individual outstanding natural features identified in the assessment.

Special amenity landscapes (SAL) have been identified in the Rimutaka Ranges, Akatarawa Valley, Whakatikei Hills, Western Escarpment, Hutt Valley, Te Marua Valley, Eastern Hills and Mt Marua Hills character areas.

The natural science, sensory and shared or recognised factors contributing to landscape values, as identified in the technical study, have been summarised in an assessment record sheet. A seven point scale (very low, low, low-moderate, moderate, moderate-high, high, very high) has then applied to help distinguish the relative significance (RS) of these factors within the context of the District. ONFL and SAL are then identified through an overall evaluation, against the 'tests' established to distinguish ONFL and SAL (see **Part 3**). Maps of the ONFL and SAL were then prepared to show the physical extent of the landscape areas, as assessed, overall, to meet these tests, using high resolution aerials and GIS data.

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

- Rimutaka Ranges
- Tararua Ranges
- Akatarawa Forest

Special Amenity Landscapes

- Remutaka Pass - Rimutaka Pass
- Akatarawa Pass
- Cannon Point
- Te Awakairangi - Hutt River
- Eastern Hills

	Natural Science values	Aesthetic values	Expressiveness/ legibility	Transient values	Shared and recognised values	Values to tangata whenua	Historical associations
Rimutaka Ranges	vh	h	vh	h	h	h	h
Remutaka Pass	mh	mh	h	vh	h	vh	vh
Tararua Ranges	vh	vh	vh	vh	vh	vh	vh
Akatarawa Pass	m	mh	mh	lm	mh	h	mh
Cannon Point	mh	h	m	lm	mh	m	m
Te Awakairangi	m	mh	h	h	vh	vh	vh
Eastern Hills	lm	m	m	lm	mh	m	m
Akatarawa Forest	h	mh	mh	mh	vh	mh	m

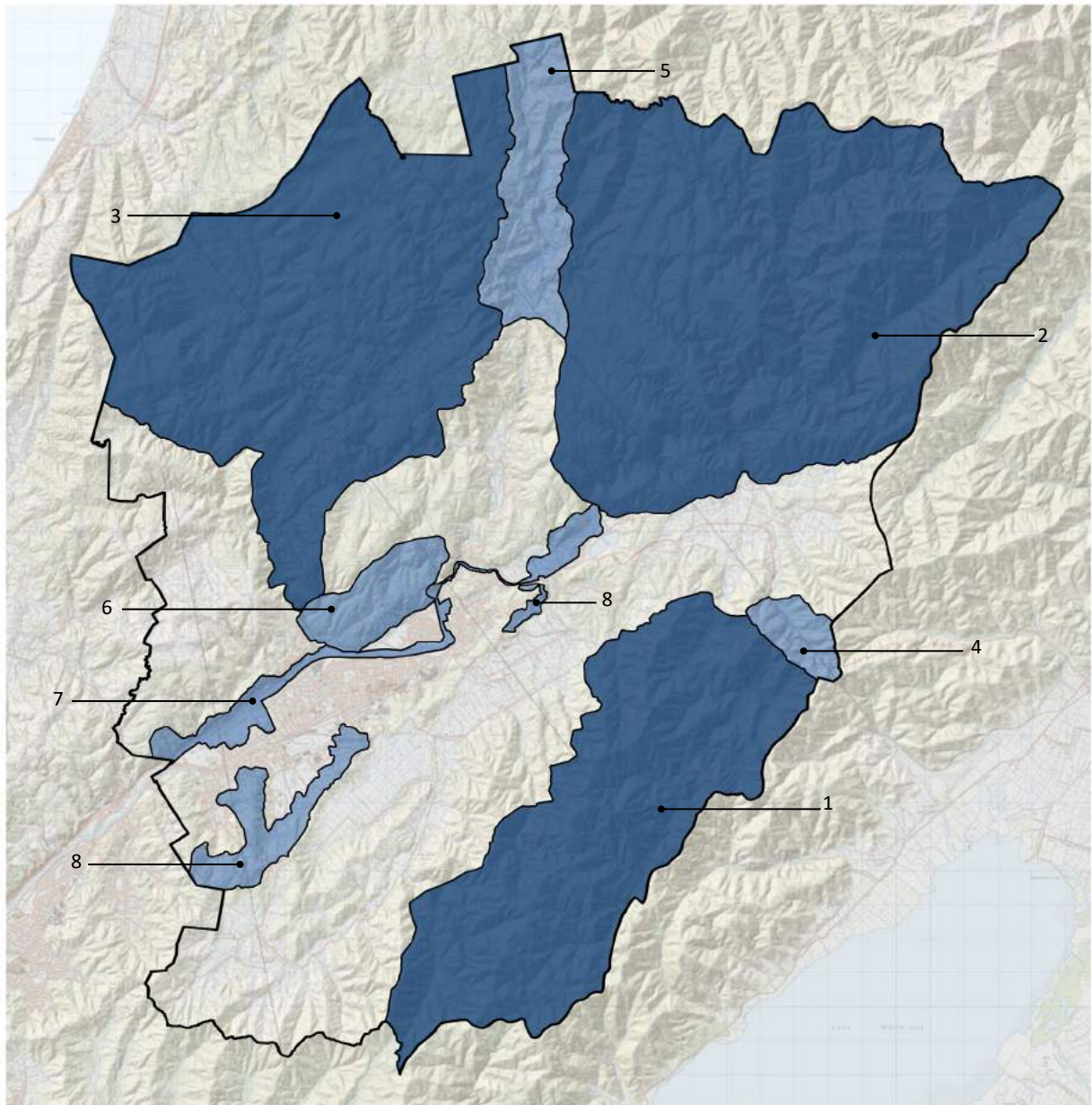
Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

- 1 | Rimutaka Ranges
- 2 | Tararua Ranges
- 3 | Akatarawa Forest

Special Amenity Landscapes

- 4 | Remutaka Pass
- 5 | Akatarawa Pass
- 6 | Cannon Point
- 7 | Te Awakairangi- Hutt River
- 8 | Eastern Hills

- District Boundary
- Special Amenity Landscapes
- Outstanding Natural Features Landscape

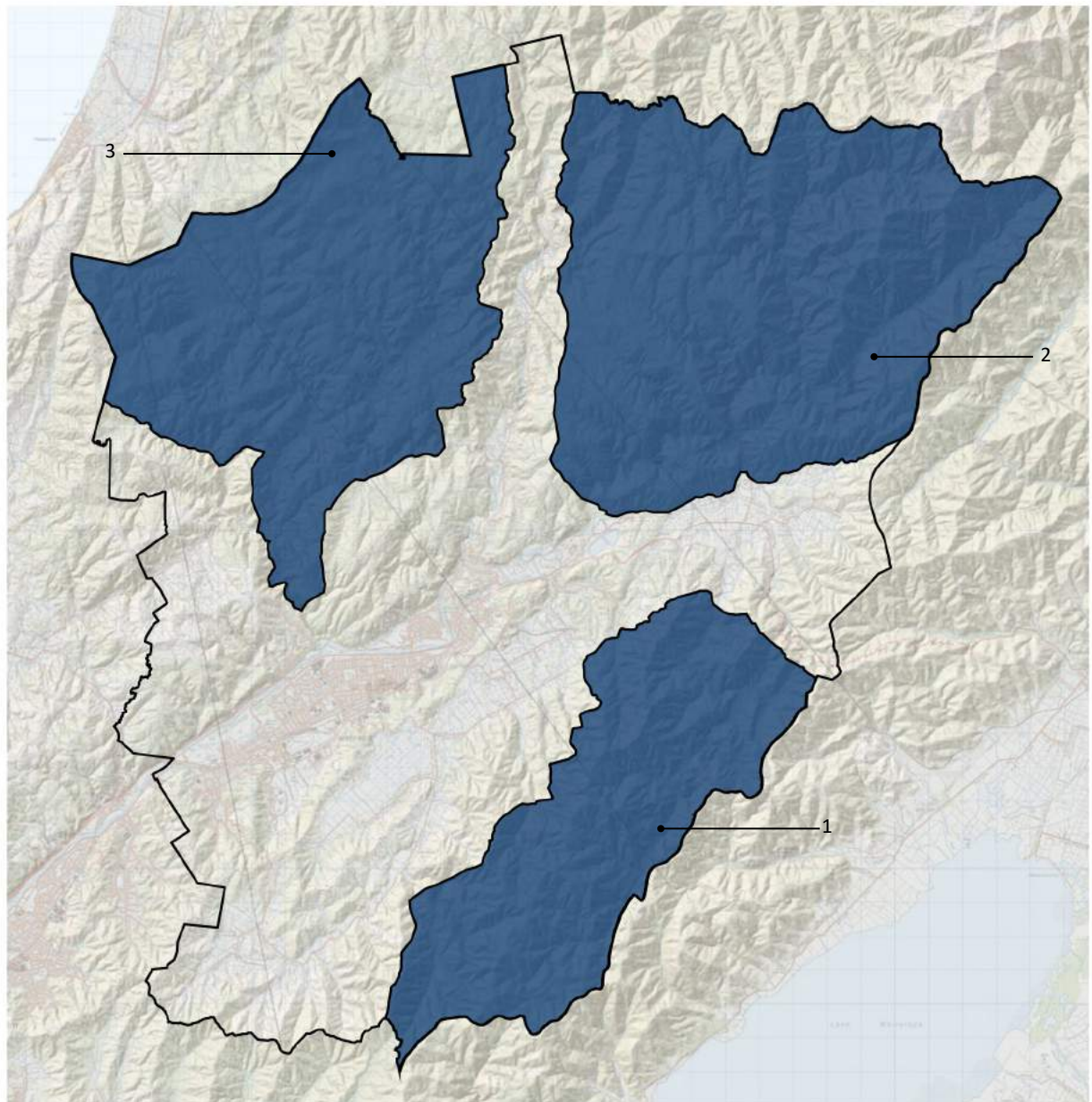


Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

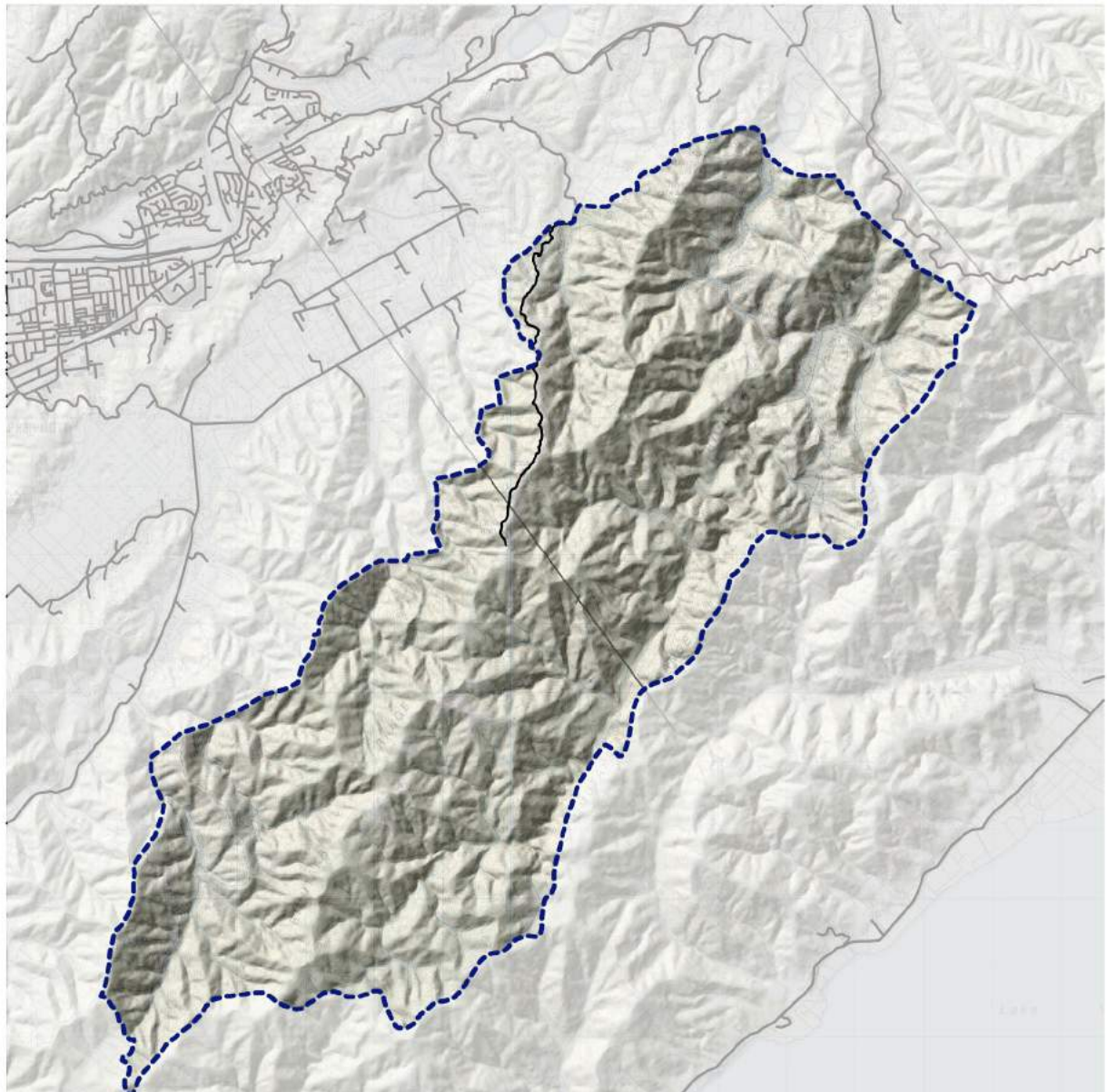
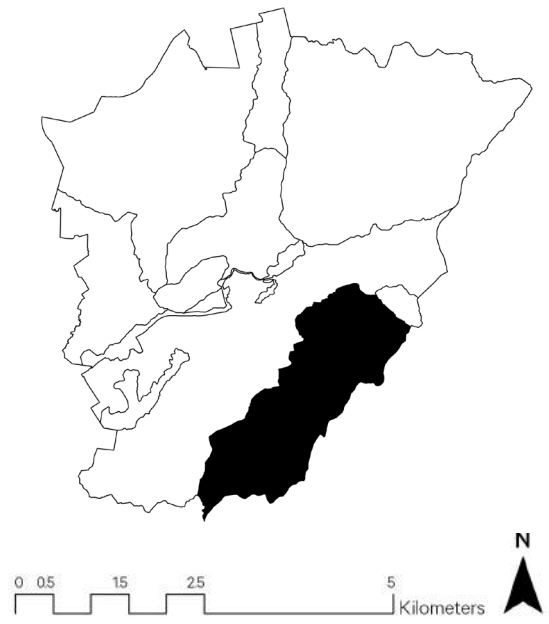
- 1 | Rimutaka Ranges
- 2 | Tararua Ranges
- 3 | Akatarawa Forest

— District Boundary

■ Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes



RIMUTAKA RANGES



Name:	Rimutaka Ranges		
Description	The main ranges and forested foothills of the Rimutakas including the defining peaks of the Districts' south eastern boundary and the headwaters of the Pakuratahi River.		
ONFL/SAL	ONFL		
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*
Natural Science	Representativeness	The ranges are expressive of the Wellington and Wairarapa faults. They are comprised of uplifted and eroded Torlesse supergroup greywacke with prominent peaks above 700m (Climie 862m). The ranges include some of the oldest geological elements in the District of steep to very steep hill country. Significant areas of indigenous vegetation have been retained in this landscape including primary forest with subalpine to beech/podocarp ecosystems represented.	vh Natural Science Values
	Research and education	The ranges are expressive of tectonic uplift, alluvial and colluvial processes. The ranges support significant areas of hard beech, red beech/podocarp and silver beech forest as well as sub alpine with threatened environments located along the river and stream terraces.	
	Rarity	The area provides habitat for threatened plant, animal and fish species including kirks daisy, greenhood orchid, rifleman, New Zealand pipit, New Zealand falcon, North Island brown kiwi, barking gecko, longfin eel, kōaro, dwarf galaxias and redfin bully. Pakuratahi River and tributaries recognised as a habitat for threatened or at risk indigenous fish species- PNRP.	
	Ecosystem functioning	The ranges provide a diverse range of habitats spanning 800m altitudinal. They are also an important water catchment for downstream river environments including tributaries to the Mangaroa and Pakuratahi Rivers.	

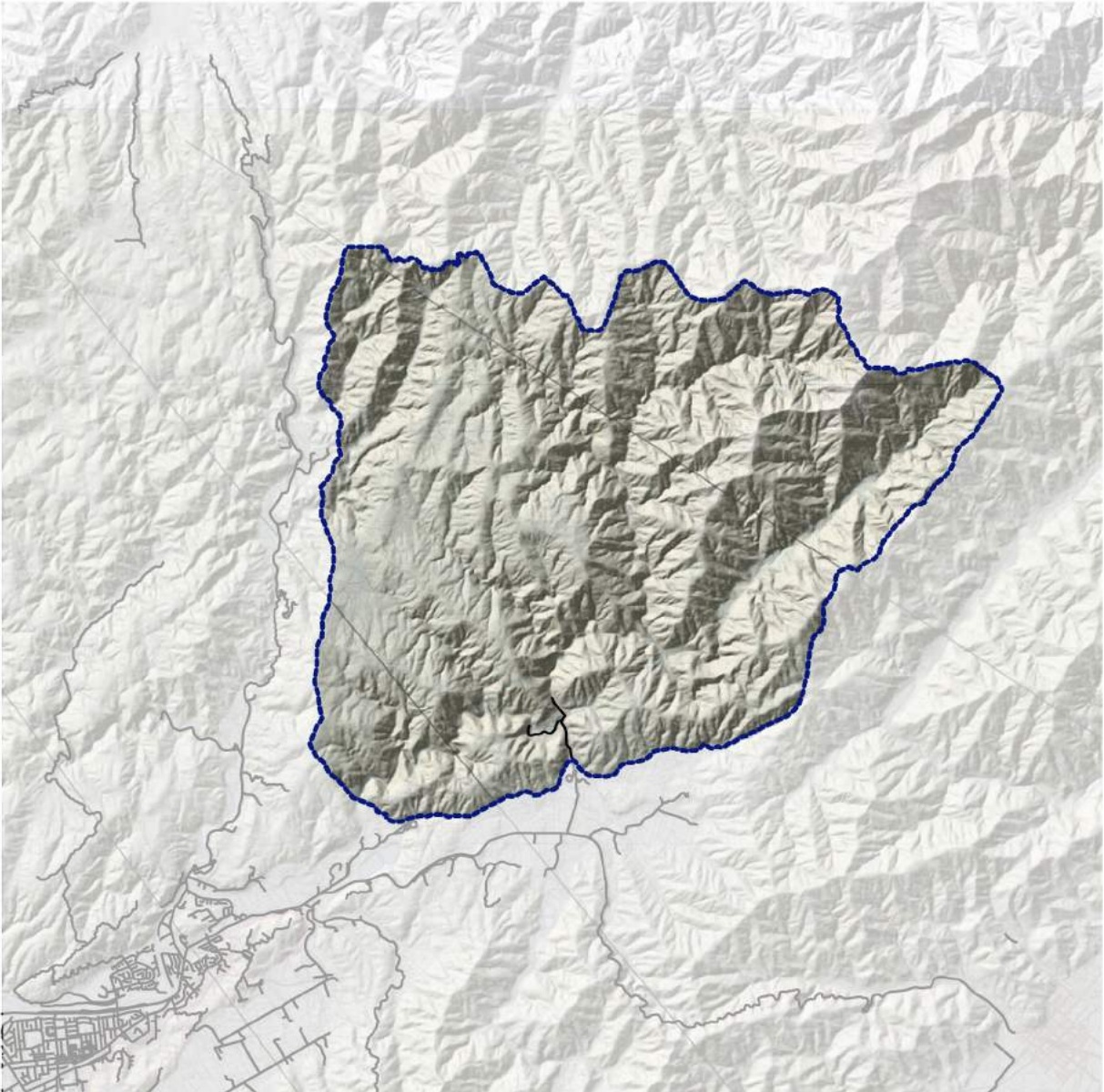
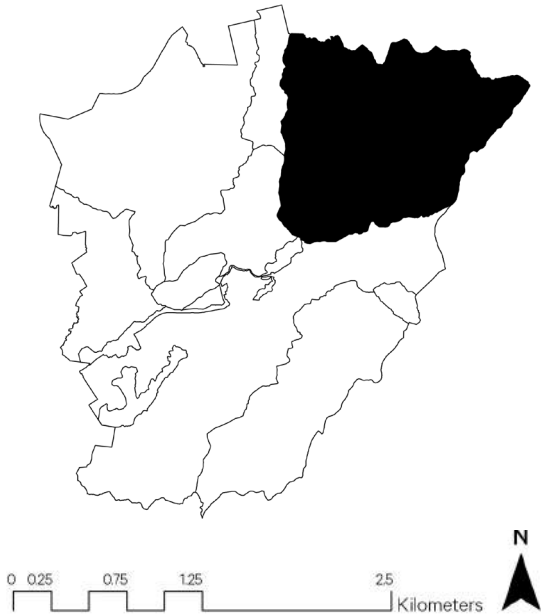


View of Rimutaka Ranges from Kirton Drive, Riverstone Terraces Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Sensory	Coherence	Defining landform and SE-NW ridgelines with a sequence of identifiable peaks marking a significant section of the District and the region from Tukirare Head to the Remutaka Pass. Landforms are predominantly unmodified and, although impacted by historic clearance, vegetation patterns are expressive of varying altitude and aspect.	h
	Vividness	A highly memorable landscape due to the extent and prominence of the landforms, that form a consistent backdrop to the eastern boundary to the District often highlighted by snow in winter . The ranges have strong picturesque qualities, contributing mid and background views from transport routes and residential areas.	Aesthetic values
	Naturalness	Moderate to high degree of natural character, as patterns of landform and hydrology are largely unmodified with regenerating and remnant indigenous vegetation. Perceptions of natural character are enhanced by wilderness qualities, limited/difficult public access and contrast to urban areas.	
	Expressiveness/legibility	The ranges are clearly expressive of tectonic uplift and associated erosion, faulting and alluvial processes with distinct ecosystems. The ranges include well known landmarks such as Climie and form a distinct legible edge to the District.	vh
	Transient values	The higher peaks are often covered in snow during the winter months. The have a defining effect on the weather of the District and wider Hutt Valley as well as the ranging patterns of indigenous fauna, including seasonal influences to follow flowering/fruiting	h

Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	The majority of the landscape is located with the Pakuratahi Forest (managed by GWRC) for the purpose of water supply and recreation (with lowland areas outside the landscape area identified also managed for forestry) and biodiversity values. The ranges have a significant role to play in conserving the biodiversity of the lower North Island, and are recognised as a part of GWRC key native ecosystem programme. Other features identified in the District Plan include ridgeline values (Mt Climie to Tunnel- Goat Rock) as well as heritage relics (tunnels, Fell track system, Pakuratahi and Ladle Bend Bridge), recognised by the New Zealand Archaeological Society (NZAA) and in the PRNP, linked to the construction of the Wairarapa Rail Line. Recreation values, also recognised in the PRNP, are focused around the Tunnel Gully area- access to Mt Climie track, Rimutaka Rail Trail, a significant tourism resource for the District and Pakuratahi River. Hunting is also permitted in the upper catchment. Draft District study identifies a number of potential SNA over majority of private land in this landscape-public land SNA study is to be completed 2018.	h
	Values to tangata whenua	The name Remutaka commemorates the edge (remu) of Haunui-a-Nanaia's cape falling to the ground (taka) when he first viewed and named Wairarapa. Foothill areas and waterways used as part of a wider network of historical food and forest resource gathering sites with well known trails (over the Remutaka Pass, along the Orongorongo and Waiorongomai Rivers - outside the District) nearby linking to/from the Wairarapa for trade, resources, migration and in advance/retreat of conflict between iwi and European settlers. The PRNP includes statements of association for Taranaki Whānui and the Rimutaka Forest Park as a key resource for the collection of food-kai-, medicinal plants- rongoā and weaving materials- taonga raranga.	h
	Historical associations	Early exploration by scientist Dieffenbach (some reports of Mt Climie ascent in 1840). Early timber milling in the ranges associated with the construction of the main trunk line to the Wairarapa (opened in 1878 and current alignment opened in 1955) and linked to settlements in the lowlands. Peaks named after early European surveyors- JD Climie.	h

TARARUA RANGES



Name:	Tararua Ranges		
Description	The main ranges and forested foothills of the Tararuas that form the north eastern boundary to the District including the headwaters of the Hutt River- Te Awakairangi- and prominent peaks of the southern crossing 'dress circle'.		
ONFL/SAL	ONFL		
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*
Natural Science	Representativeness	The ranges are expressive of the Wellington and Wairarapa faults. They are comprised of uplifted and eroded Torlesse supergroup greywacke with prominent peaks above 1000m (Alpha 1361m). The ranges include the oldest geological elements in the District of steep to very steep hill country. Significant areas of indigenous vegetation have been retained in this landscape including primary forest with montane to kamahi and beech/podocarp ecosystems represented	vh Natural Science Values
	Research and education	The ranges are expressive of tectonic uplift, minor glacial activity as well as alluvial and colluvial processes. The landscape supports significant areas of original alpine tussock grasslands (above 1000m), montane beech and podocarp/kamahi forest. These areas support rare and endangered indigenous fauna and flora.	
	Rarity	The area provides habitat for threatened species including kaka, kākariki, NZ falcon, long-tailed bat, long-tailed cuckoo, southern north island forest gecko, Ngahere gecko and in waterways, longfin eel and Kōaro and as an important habitat for threatened and at risk indigenous fish species -PNRP. Maymorn Wetlands (Maymorn Ridge area- marsh and endangered bog type) are recognised in the PNRP as a wetland with outstanding indigenous biodiversity values due to representativeness, diversity and rarity. Other wetlands retained alongside Phillips Stream and upper Eastern Hutt River.	
	Ecosystem functioning	The ranges provide the most diverse range of habitats from hill country to alpine in the lower north island and high value freshwater environments. They are also an important catchment for the Districts lowland waterways and minor/remaining wetland environments.	

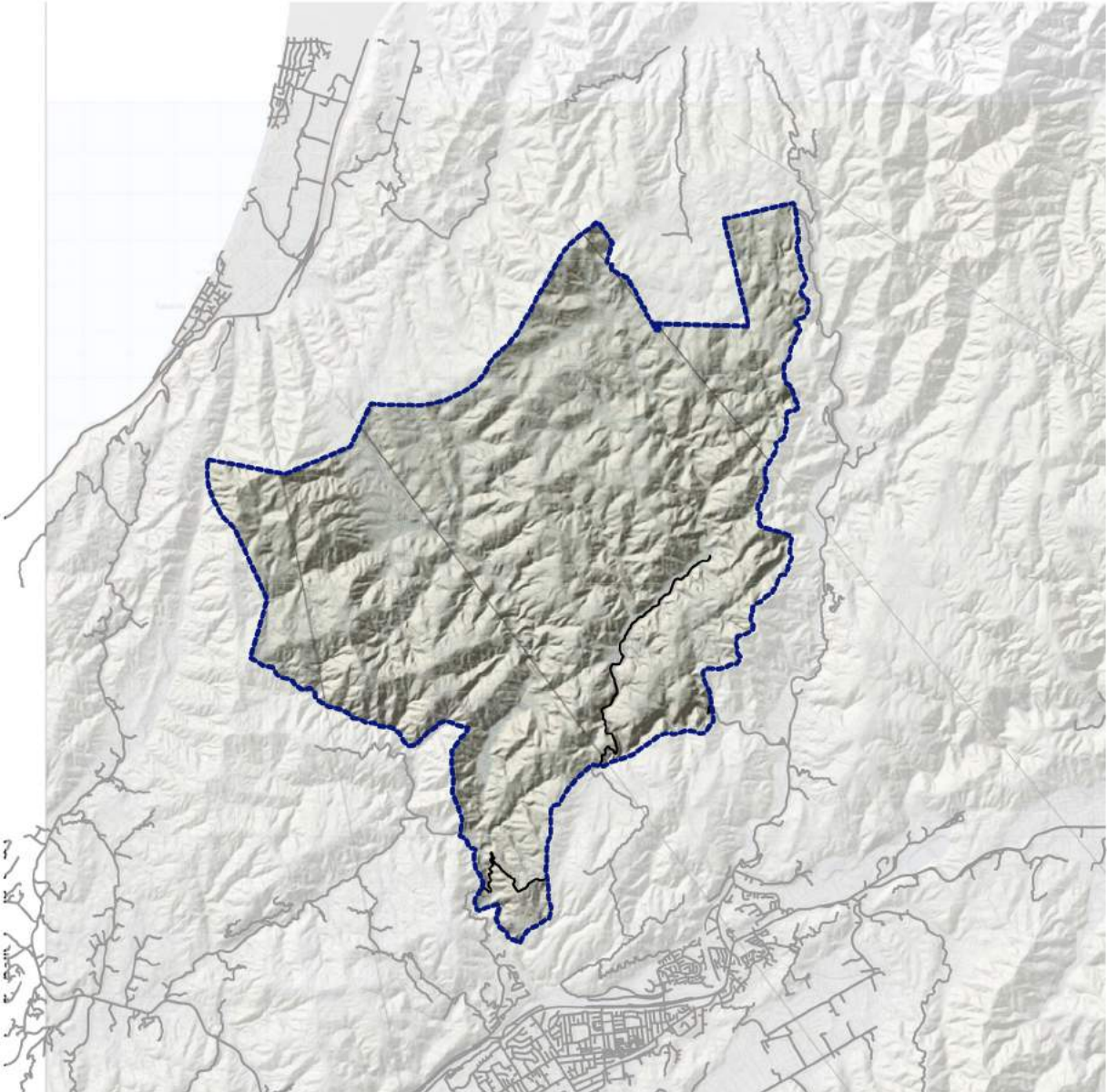


Tararua Ranges view from Incline Rd. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Sensory	Coherence	The ranges are defined by a distinct sequence of peaks and south east- north west tending ridgelines separated by tributaries and the headwaters of Te Awakairangi - the Hutt River. Landforms are predominantly unmodified with broad uplifted peneplains progressing to dissected steeplands and the 'dress circle' of named peaks along the District's boundary.	vh
	Vividness	A highly memorable landscape due to scale and extent of the landforms, as a dramatic backdrop and defining feature to the north west boundary of the District. Strong picturesque qualities with elements contributing to important/well known views and landmarks in the District such as Marchant Ridge and Alpha and selected for 'remarkable' movie locations e.g. 'Rivendell' along the Hutt River in Kaitoke Regional Park.	Aesthetic values
	Naturalness	High natural character values, as patterns of landform, landcover and hydrology are largely unmodified, much of the area is remote, difficult/dangerous to access and uninhabited	
	Expressiveness/legibility	Expressive of tectonic uplift and associated erosion, faulting, and alluvial processes with distinct ecosystems. Named peaks and ridgelines form a strong edge to the District and physical pathway as part of the Southern Crossing to the Tararua Forest Park with waterway 'forks' between Pakuratahi and the Hutt River adding to the mental map of the area.	vh
	Transient values	Higher mountains are often covered in snow during the winter months. Ranges have a defining effect on weather patterns across the region and the lower north island, as well as ranging patterns of indigenous fauna and hydrological patterns markedly different in the seasons	vh

Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	<p>The majority of the area is located within the Kaitoke Regional Park, an area managed by Greater Wellington for water catchment and as part of the key native ecosystem programme (KNE), one of the largest areas containing original forest in the Wellington Region. The ranges have significant role in conserving biodiversity in the lower north island and crucial role in conserving water quality and supply for the region and minimising flood risk to lowland areas. Other features recognised by NZAA and GWRC include historic relics associated with the regions water supply (Kaitoke Water Works Rd) and umu- oven site- along Maymorn Ridge. The PNRP also recognises Maymorn Wetlands (along Maymorn Ridge) to have outstanding indigenous biodiversity values, Te Awakairangi - Hutt River- from a location 20m above the Kaitoke Dam, as a river with outstanding indigenous ecosystem values and as Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa and a significant primary contact recreation river (see Chapter 12 PNRP). This area forms a significant tourism and recreation resource including short walks, picnic grounds and swimming sports in the regional park and DOC access point to the iconic Southern Crossing (Kiwi Ranch Rd)- from Marchant Ridge to Otaki Forks. Draft District study identifies potential SNA over majority of private land in this landscape. Public land SNA study is to be completed in 2018.</p>	vh
	Values to tangata whenua	<p>There are different versions of the origin of the name Tararua. The Kahungunu version stems from an ancestor, Rangikaikore, who broke his spear tip (tara) into two (rua) while hunting. The Muaupoko and Rangitane tradition is that the name refers to the two wives of their ancestor explorer, Whatonga or that it refers to his son Tara saying Ngā waewae e rua a Tara ‘the spanned legs of Tara’. Popular folklore has ascribed the name to two specific topographic features; the dramatic steep double peak on the main range, the Tararua Peaks (officially named Tunui and Tuiti) and the double peak of Mitre, so-called by Europeans because its shape resembled that of a bishop’s mitre. Most of the peaks and the main waterways of the Tararua’s have Maori names indicating long held associations that have particular significance to particular iwi and hapu. Early transportation routes were negotiated through to the Wairarapa across the ranges as evidenced by archaeological records, including adzes, obsidian flakes and umu. Foothills areas and waterways also formed an important historical food and forest resource gathering sites. Te Awakairangi and its tributaries in the ranges are Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa for mana whenua; the awa- river- from which Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui derive their cultural and spiritual identity and kaitiaki responsibilities. The river has status, as acknowledged in the PRNP, as Ngā Mahi a ngā Tīpuna, Te Mahinga Kai, Wāhi Whakarite, Te Mana o te Tangata, Te Manawaroa o te Wai, Te Mana o Te Wai and Wāhi Mahara (refer to PRNP Chapter 12). Recognised traditional area for gathering piharau (blind eel) and tuna (eel).</p>	vh
	Historical associations	<p>An early traverse route for Maori and Pākehā that spanned the ranges with the ‘Southern Crossing’ tramping track established by 1912. Early survey efforts established trig points along the ranges to triangulate coordinates used to produce some of the first maps of the region. Timber milling in the foothills of the ranges was associated with construction of the main trunk line and settlement patterns in the lowlands. Early explorers/trampers are commemorated in the naming of particular features (e.g. Quion Ridge) and have links with early Tramping Clubs (Tararua Tramping Club established 1912) and conservation efforts in New Zealand.</p>	vh

AKATARAWA FOREST



Name:	Akatarawa Forest		
Description	Recreation areas of the Akatarawa Forest Park and Whakatikei River hills including landmarks of Wainui, Titi, Deadwood and Mt Barton		
ONFL/SAL	ONFL		
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*
Natural Science	Representativeness	Landforms expressive of uplift and slip- strike Akatarawa and Moonshine faults with underlying greywacke overlaid by an ancient peneplain buckled through uplift and dissected by the tributaries to the Whakatikei and Akatarawa Rivers. Significant areas of indigenous vegetation have been retained including remnant forest with larger areas of hill country ecosystem regenerating forest types across altitudinal bands from tawa dominant to kamahi- tōtara and kamahi-miro.	h
	Research and education	Landforms are expressive of tectonic uplift as well as alluvial and colluvial processes. Landscape area supports significant areas of regenerating and remnant podocarp/tawa and podocarp/kamahi forest . These areas provide habitats for a diverse range of indigenous bird and fish species enhanced by pest control programmes.	
	Rarity	Ephemeral wetlands located in the Whakatikei catchment (Whakatikei Wetland, Whakatikei Headwater Swamp, Martins River wetland) and are classified as critically endangered with acutely threatened environments located on the river terraces. Threatened and at risk species identified in the GWRC Akatarawa Key Native Ecosystem area (majority of this landscape) include plant, bird and freshwater fish species such as scarlet and red mistletoe, bristle fern, kirks daisy, turepo, rifleman, New Zealand pipit, kākariki, log tailed cuckoo, NZ falcon, lamprey, longfin eel, torrent fish, giant kokopu and koaro.	
	Ecosystem functioning	Forms part of an important lower foothill corridor that extends from the Hutt Valley through to the Kāpiti Coast lowlands and from the Wellington harbour- Te Whanganui a Tara to the Tararua ranges with highly valued habitats for indigenous flora and fauna. Features high value freshwater environments and wetlands contributing to Te Awakairangi catchment.	
			Natural Science Values



Akatarawa Forest above Te Awakairangi - Hutt River. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Sensory	Coherence	Part of a wider dissected peneplain landform that extends from Pauatahanui - Reikorangi in the west and Haywards- Birchville in the east between the Horokiri Stream and the Akatarawa River. Features a sequence of north east tending ridgelines, trig points and named peaks following fault lines	Aesthetic values	mh	
	Vividness	A memorable landscape and widely recognised by the community due to varied recreation experiences and public access with well known landmarks, including Wainui and Mt Barton, featuring in views within the District and wider region. Picturesque qualities of enclosed river valleys and indigenous vegetation and providing opportunities for a more accessible 'wilderness experience' than the Tararuas			
	Naturalness	Moderate to high degree of natural character associated, as landforms and patterns of hydrology are largely unmodified, the area uninhabited and accessed 'off road' and providing experience of rare/threatened environments			
	Expressiveness/legibility	Landforms are expressive of dissected and uplifted peneplain with named peaks forming the 'coastal edge' to the District			mh
	Transient values	Linked to the ranging patterns of fauna from river, hills to the Kāpiti Coast.			mh
Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	Landscape is managed as part of GWRC Akatarawa Forest Park and Key Native Ecosystem Programme. Other features identified in the PRNP important trout habitat in the Whakatikei River and the Whakatikei Headwater Swamp as a significant natural wetland. Part of the southern water catchment area. Combined with the main Tararua ranges, the Akatarawa Forest has a significant role in conserving the indigenous biodiversity of the lower North Island and a crucial role in conserving water quality and future supply, while minimising flood risk to the surrounding lowland areas. The Akatarawa Forest Park is a significant tourism and recreation resource providing hunting areas as well as 4WD, horseriding walking and cycling tracks; part of the internationally renowned Karapoti Classic (Karapoti Road). Draft District study identifies a number of potential SNA on private land in this landscape, as contiguous with Akatarawa Forest Park, with uncommon and under protected ecosystem types. Public land SNA study is to be completed in 2018.	vh		
	Values to tangata whenua	Area valued historically for forest resources and accessible via Akatarawa and Whakatikei Rivers and their tributaries. Maori names for peaks and waterways indicate long held associations with particular significance to iwi and hapu	h		
	Historical associations	Native timber milling resulted in forest clearance over much of this landscape in the late 1800's early 1900's and linked to settlements such as Cloustonville along the Akatarawa River and early roads into the area- Karopoti and Moonshine Valley. Hunting areas retained including red deer - released in the area around 1910 and farmed in greater numbers in the 1970's.	m		

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SPECIAL AMENITY LANDSCAPES



Part 5 Special Amenity Landscapes

In addition to the ONFL identified in Part 4 of this report, the following **special amenity landscapes (SAL)** have been identified in the Rimutaka Ranges, Akatarawa Valley, Whakatikei Hills, Western Escarpment, Hutt Valley, Eastern Hills and Te Marua Hills character areas.

The natural science, sensory and shared or recognised factors contributing to landscape values, as identified in the technical study, have been summarised in an assessment record sheet. A seven point scale (very low, low, low-moderate, moderate, moderate-high, high, very high) has then applied to help distinguish the relative significance (RS) of these factors within the context of the District. ONFL and SAL are then identified through an overall evaluation, against the ‘tests’ established to distinguish ONFL and SAL (see **Part 3**). Maps of the ONFL and SAL were then prepared to show the physical extent of the landscape areas, as assessed, overall, to meet these tests, using high resolution aerials and GIS data.

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

- Rimutaka Ranges
- Tararua Ranges
- Akatarawa Forest

Special Amenity Landscapes

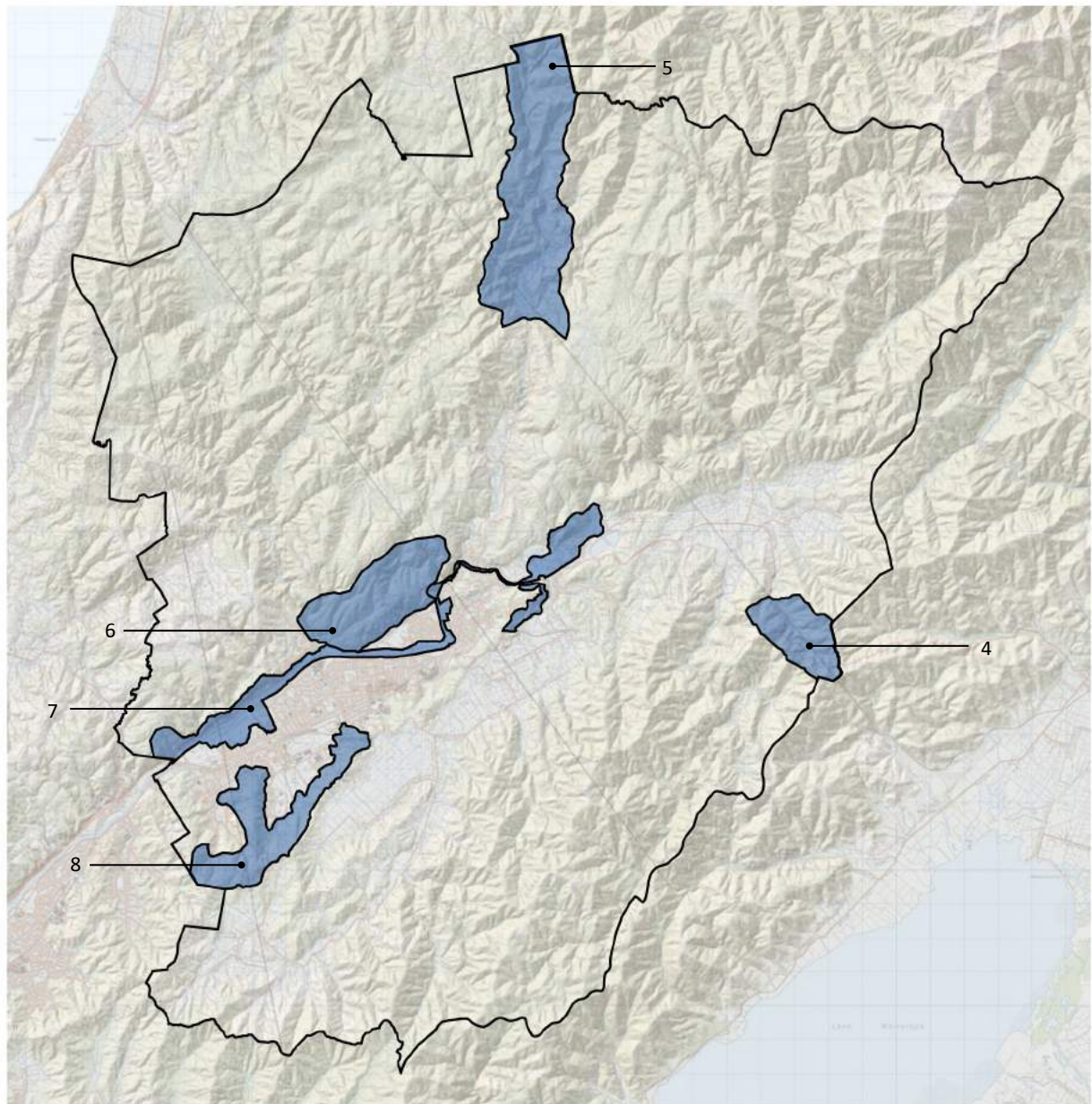
- Remutaka Pass - Rimutaka Pass
- Akatarawa Pass
- Cannon Point
- Te Awakairangi - Hutt River
- Eastern Hills

	Natural Science values	Aesthetic values	Expressiveness/ legibility	Transient values	Shared and recognised values	Values to tangata whenua	Historical associations
Rimutaka Ranges	vh	h	vh	h	h	h	h
Remutaka Pass	mh	mh	h	vh	h	vh	vh
Tararua Ranges	vh	vh	vh	vh	vh	vh	vh
Akatarawa Pass	m	mh	mh	lm	mh	h	mh
Cannon Point	mh	h	m	l	mh	m	m
Te Awakairangi	m	mh	h	h	vh	vh	vh
Eastern Hills	lm	m	m	lm	mh	m	m
Akatarawa Forest	h	mh	mh	mh	vh	mh	m

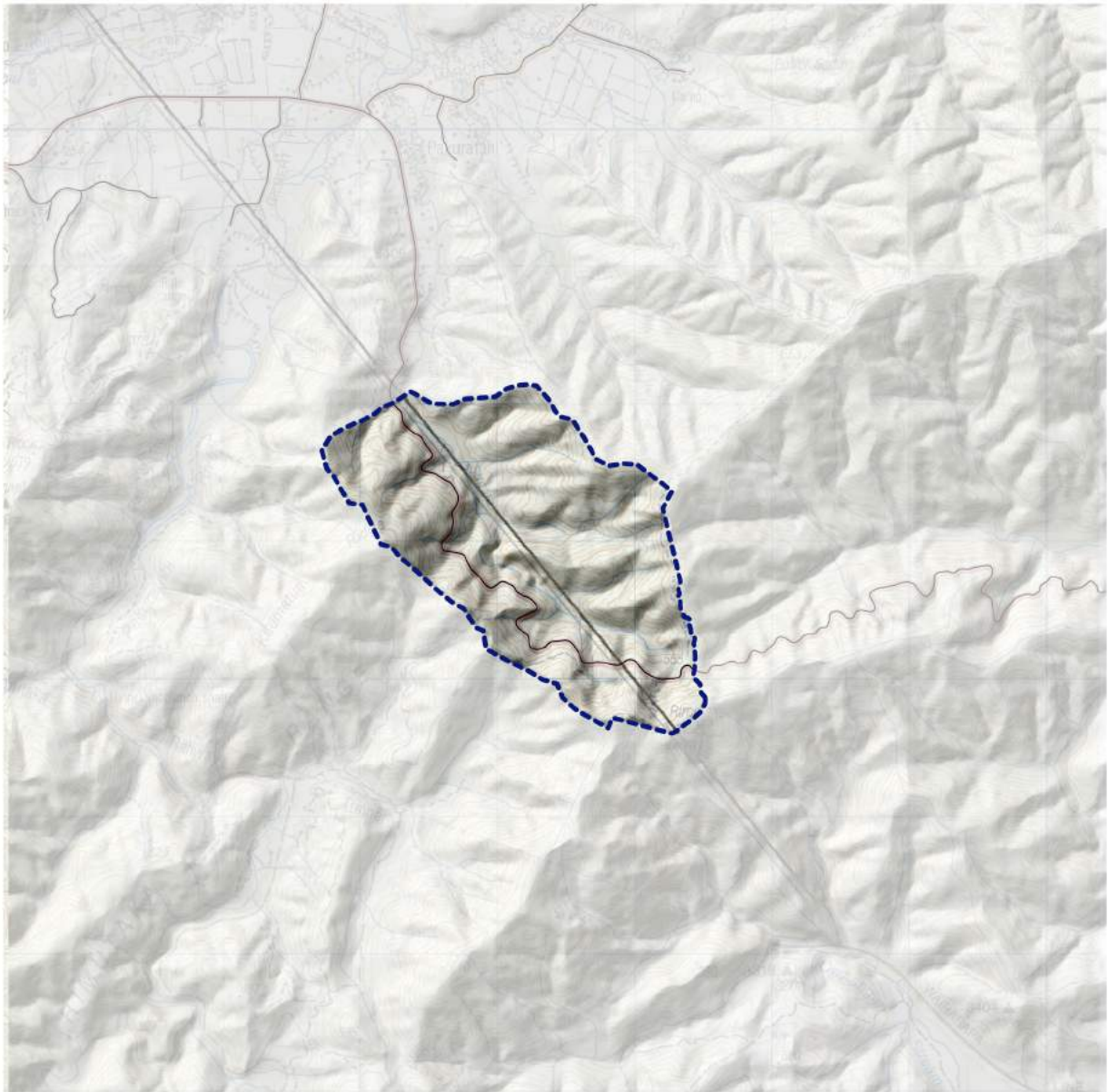
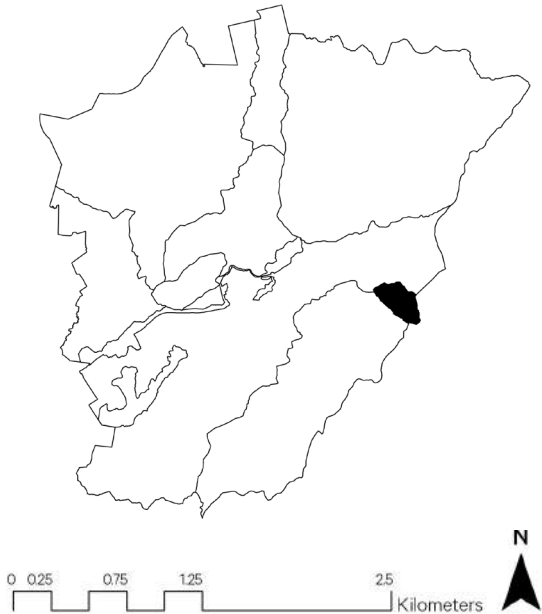
Special Amenity Landscapes

- 4 | Remutaka Pass
- 5 | Akatarawa Pass
- 6 | Cannon Point
- 7 | Te Awakairangi
- 8 | Eastern Hills

— District Boundary
■ Special Amenity Landscapes



REMUTAKA PASS



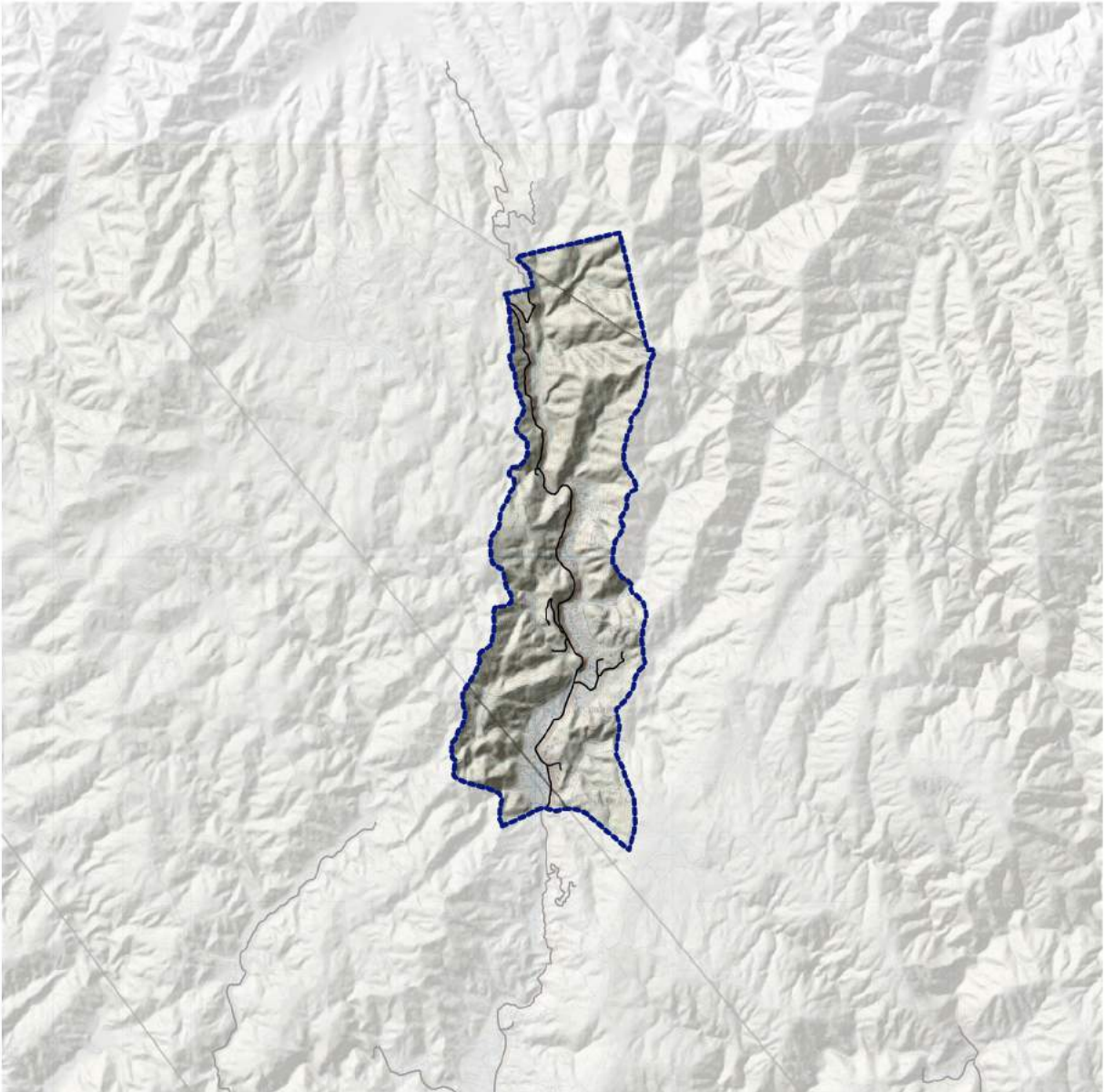
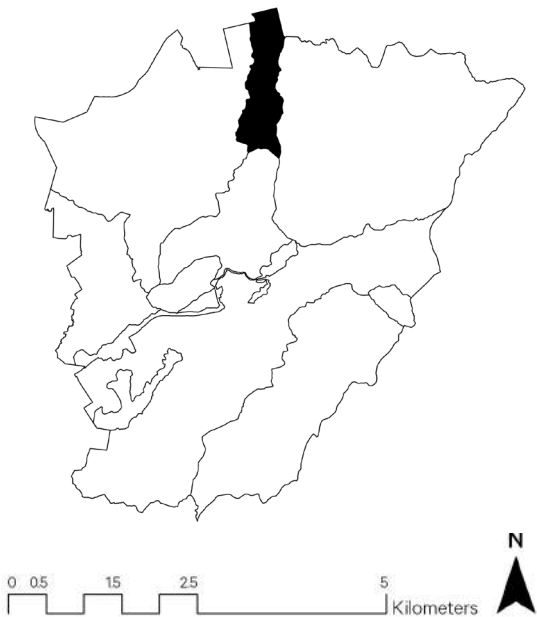
Name:	Remutaka Pass			
Description	Confined pass and historic route from the Hutt Valley to the Wairarapa south of Pakuratahi to the District boundary.			
ONFL/SAL	SAL			
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*	
Natural Science	Representativeness	Expressive of the tectonic, alluvial and hydrological processes forming the edge of the Rimutaka and Tararua Ranges and the Rimutaka Stream catchment.	mh Natural Science Values	
	Research and education	The landscape provides a transect of ecosystem types from lowland to sub alpine environments and access to surveyed Trig points (Rimutaka, 1221m- just outside the District).		
	Rarity	Contributing to a wider network of rare and threatened environments across the Rimutaka and Tararua ranges. Rare and at risk species include wollyhead, red mistletoe, Australasian pipit and barking gecko.		
	Ecosystem functioning	The landcover is predominantly regenerating, has been impacted by historic clearance including fire with remnants forest retained on steep south facing slopes . Rimutaka stream contributes to the Pakuratahi catchment.		
Sensory	Coherence	Pass area defined by distinct ridgelines and sequence of spurs in marking the path of the Rimutaka Stream	mh	
	Vividness	Highly memorable landscape and iconic route in and out of the District with successive picturesque views framed by spurs and panoramic lookout viewpoints into and out of the District		
	Naturalness	Moderate degree of natural character associated with prominence of the landforms, regenerating indigenous vegetation. Sense of wilderness enhanced by enclosing landforms, steep terrain and landcover contrast to Kaitoke Valley farmland. Dominance of nature often expressed through road closure due to rock slides, gale force winds and or snow.	Aesthetic values	
	Expressiveness/legibility	Expressive of tectonic and alluvial processes with clear changes in vegetation marking altitude. A distinct pathway in and out of the District and route to known landmark- saddle.		h
	Transient values	Often marked by snow and ice during winter months, gale force winds throughout the year and seasonal flowering of indigenous vegetation , notably clematis species draped over trees, not visible at other times of the year.		vh

Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	Contributing to the Pakuratahi Forest values for recreation water collection and biodiversity. Iconic/scenic and sometimes hazardous road/rail trip to/from the Wairarapa with well known lookout at the summit and track access to Rimutaka Peak also linking to Rimutaka Rail Trail. Trout habitat in the Remutaka Stream, is recognised in the PNRP. Public land SNA study is to be completed in 2018.	h
	Values to tangata whenua	The name Remutaka commemorates the edge (remu) of Haunui-a-Nanaia's cape falling to the ground (taka) when he first viewed and named Wairarapa. Important historic trail following the Rimutaka Stream and Abbots Creek linking tribes to and from the Wairarapa for trade, resources, migration and in advance/retreat of conflict between iwi and European settlers.	vh
	Historical associations	Associated with transport, trade, access and advances in both road and rail services for the District. Early transportation route for Maori and Europeans from the 1840's (R Stokes) and road opened for cart crossing 1859. As marked by the lookout memorial, linked to WWI 'Rimutaka Hill March' from Featherston to Trentham Military Camp- before heading over to the front.	vh



Remutaka Pass. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

AKATARAWA PASS



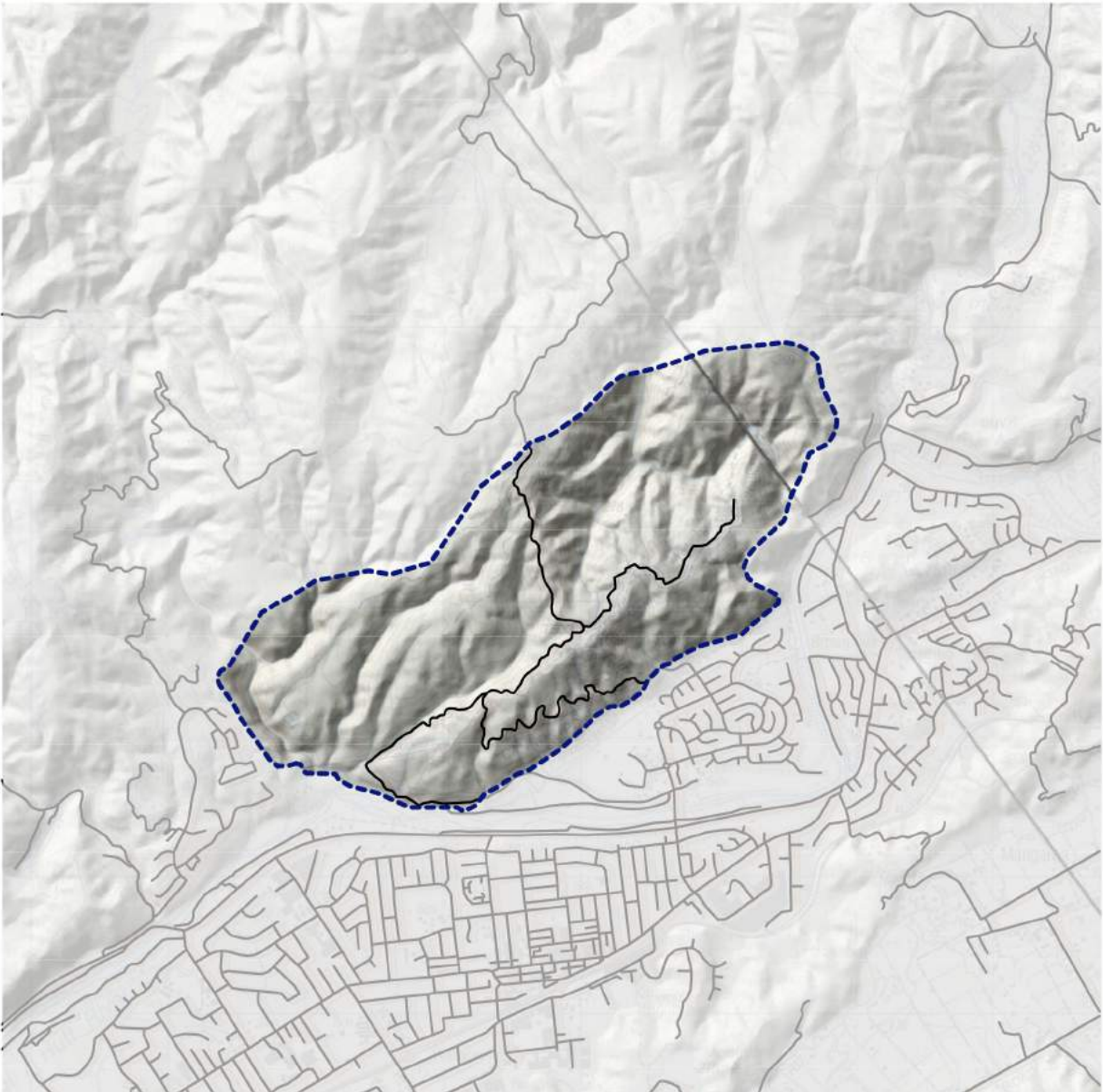
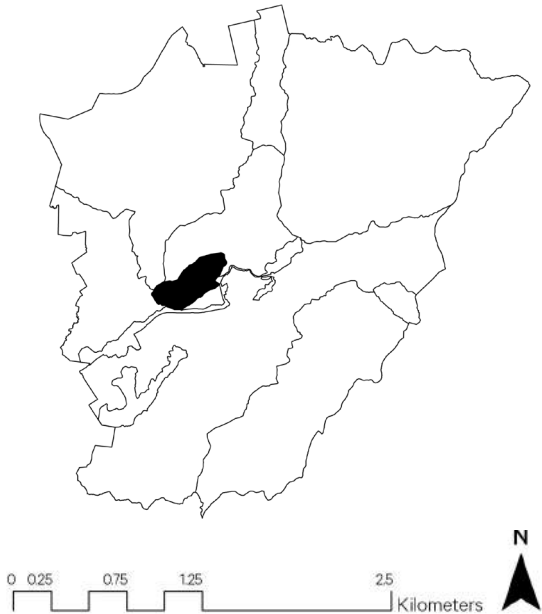
Name:	Akatarawa Pass			
Description	Confined pass and historic route from the Hutt Valley to Kāpiti Coast along the Akatarawa River from Cloustoneville to the saddle.			
ONFL/SAL				
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*	
Natural Science	Representativeness	Confined pass is expressive of uplift along the Akatarawa and Moonshine fault marking the transition between the dissected penepains of the Whakatikei Hills and the Tararua Ranges. Hydrological patterns are typical of post glacial period with an incised waterway through steepplands and minor terraces established through deposition to the valley floor near Cloustoneville.	m	
	Research and education	Landforms are expressive of tectonic uplift, fault features as well as alluvial and colluvial processes. Indigenous vegetation patterns contribute to a wider pattern of significant podocarp/tawa and podocarp / kamahi forest.		
	Rarity	Threatened and at risk species identified in the wider Akatarawa Key Native Ecosystem (GWRC) area include plant, bird and freshwater fish species such as scarlet and red mistletoe, bristle fern, kirks daisy, turepo, rifleman, New Zealand pipit, kākariki, long tailed cuckoo, NZ falcon, lamprey, longfin eel, torrent fish, giant kokopu and koaro.		
	Ecosystem functioning	Headwaters of Akatarawa River contribute to high value fresh water environments of the District. Vegetation patterns while modified- including forestry and impact through historic clearance - contribute to important habitat corridor from the Hutt Valley to Kāpiti and along the Whakatikei Hill - Tararua Ranges, across the Akatarawa Valley.		
Sensory	Coherence	Landscape enclosed by distinct NE- SW tending ridgelines and spurs along the edges of the Akatarawa River. Although modified by forestry and historic clearance, vegetation patterns are consistent with lowland- hill country ecosystems	mh	
	Vividness	A highly memorable and iconic/scenic route from the Hutt Valley and from the Kāpiti - Waikanae marked by continued rural residential settlement at Cloustoneville and saddle lookout (458m) - outside of the District.		
	Naturalness	Moderate natural character values associated with unmodified landforms, fresh water values and regenerating indigenous vegetation. Perceptions of natural character enhanced by limited settlement patterns and narrow access - creating a narrow pass through the landscape.	Aesthetic values	
	Expressiveness/legibility	A distinct path and transition area between the Hutt Valley and Kāpiti Coast with landforms and hydrology expressive of post glacial era.		mh
	Transient values	Associated with the ranging patters of indigenous fauna along the ranges and to and from the Kāpiti Coast.		lm

Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	Iconic/scenic route through the District to the Kāpiti Coast featuring continued rural residential settlement at Cloustonville and sense of arrival/departure along a narrow, at times hazardous route. Continuing connections to rural and rural - residential activities including Staglands Wildlife Park (opened in 1972) and for access to timber/firewood and rural produce/crafts. Steepland area forms part of GWRC Akatarawa Forest Park included in Key Native Ecosystem Programme including fresh water values - significant indigenous ecosystem, recognised trout habitat and significant primary contact recreation river- PNRP. Draft District study identifies potential SNA over the majority of the hill country in this landscape - excluding pine forest areas. Public land SNA study is to be completed in 2018.	mh
	Values to tangata whenua	Area valued historically for forest and freshwater resources and as a natural pathway to and from Kāpiti Coast for Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui. Translated literally, Akatarawa - Akaterewa - means 'trailing vines'.	h
	Historical associations	Associations linked to early native timber milling - establishing a mill and bush tramway at Cloustonville and linked to Reikorangi area milling area in Kāpiti. Historic transport route, established in 1880's including difficult bridge connections (further down the river)	mh



Akatarawa Rd, near Cloustonville. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

CANNON POINT



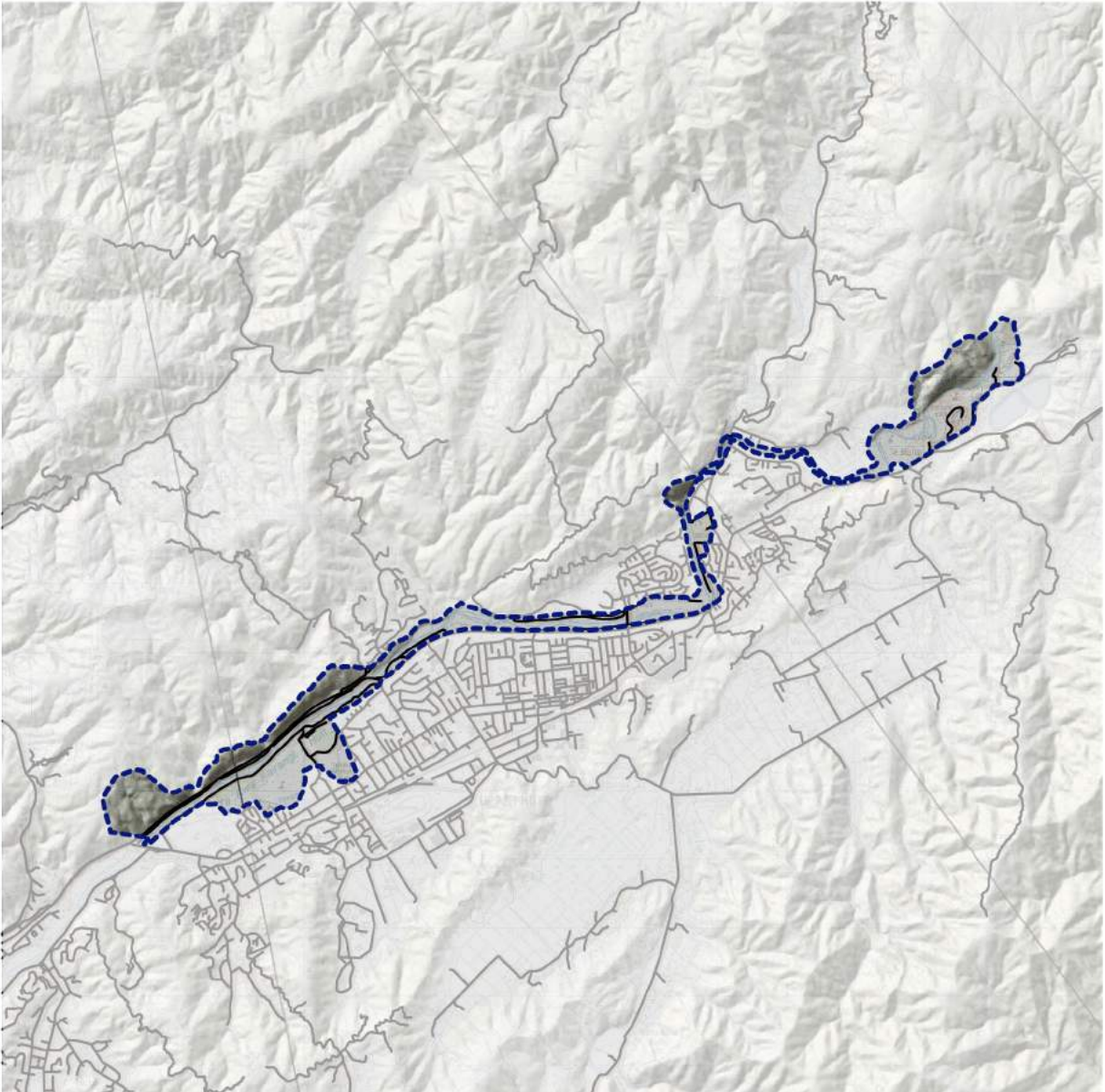
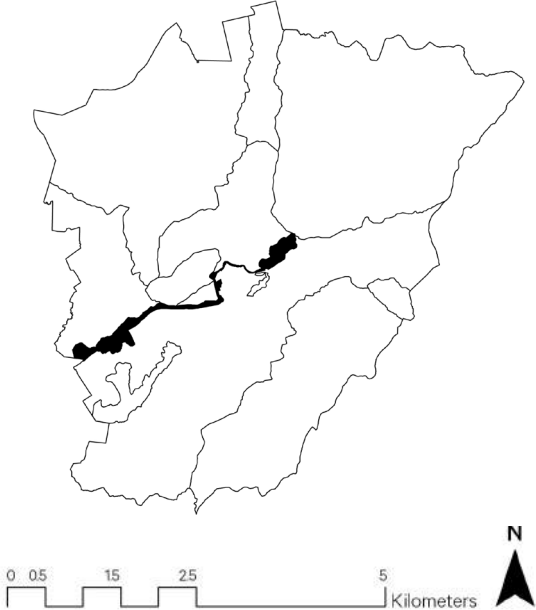
Name:	Cannon Point		
Description	Escarpment and lower Whakatikei Hill sequence setting to the Hutt River and western backdrop to urban areas		
ONFL/SAL	SAL		
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*
Natural Science	Representativeness	Expressive of the Wellington fault with distinct uplifted escarpment to the Tōtara Park river terraces with dissected and bucked peneplain above	mh Natural Science Values
	Research and education	Landforms are expressive of tectonic uplift as well as alluvial and colluvial processes. Landscape area supports significant areas of regenerating and remnant lowland podocarp/tawa forest. As part to the wider Akatarawa Forest these areas provide habitats for a diverse range of indigenous bird and fish species enhanced by pest control programmes.	
	Rarity	Contributing to the wider Akatarawa Key Native Ecosystem threatened and at risk specie habitat. NZ falcon (nationally vulnerable) reported.	
	Ecosystem functioning	Ecosystem functioning is degraded by historic clearance and exotic forestry in some areas -managed by GWRC. Regenerating areas contribute to ecological links from the river to the coast and fresh water values of the Hutt River	
Sensory	Coherence	A pronounced, prominent western escarpment edge to the Hutt Valley. Cannon Point, a well known land mark (345m) and the dissected hill country behind forming a distinct backdrop to the Tōtara Park residential area and cross valley feature from the CBD.	h Aesthetic values
	Vividness	A memorable landscape due to its setting against the Hutt River and State Highway Corridor and more prominent topography. Although modified, regenerating indigenous vegetation cover dominates over much of the escarpment face as is in marked contrast to adjacent urban areas. Lookout point includes panoramic views of the Valley and across to the Rimutaka Ranges	
	Naturalness	A moderate degree of natural character enhanced by proximity to urban areas, unmodified landforms and limited number of structures (national transmission lines).	
	Expressiveness/legibility	Landform is expressive of the Wellington fault and part of the Western escarpment 'edge' that extends from Ngauranga Gorge to the Akatarawa River along SH2/the Hutt River.	m
	Transient values	Associated with ranging patterns of indigenous fauna	lm

Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	Part of the Akatarawa Forest Park and Key Native Ecosystem Programme. Links off the river into the landscape area and Cannon Point lookout, contribute to a wider river based urban recreation network. Other features recognised by NZAA and PNRP include the Birchville Dam- historic water collection structure and Birchville Stream as a trout habitat. Draft District study identifies potential SNA area (UH003) broad leaf- beech forest contiguous with Akatarawa Forest Park KNE. Public land SNA study to be completed in 2018.	mh
	Values to tangata whenua	Wider context for historic pā sites at Māori bank and Te Hakeretu	m
	Historical associations	Linked to early water collection infrastructure (Birchville Reservoir built in 1929) and timber milling. Point named after a remaining large tree, which looked like a cannon, as viewed from the valley.	m



Harcourt Park, view out to Cannon Point Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

TE AWAKAIRANGI - HUTT RIVER



Name:	Te Awakairangi - Hutt River		
Description	Flood plain areas and lowland bush remnants of the Hutt River-Te Awakairangi- from the Western Hutt Rd to Te Marua including its western escarpment setting and open space areas.		
ONFL/SAL	SAL		
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*
Natural Science	Representativeness	The Hutt River - Te Awakairangi is most prominent river system in the District with headwaters originating in the Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges flowing south west some 56km to its outlet in Wellington Harbour. Landforms are typical of a broad and fast river system with defined river terraces, shifting gravel banks and minor modified wetland areas, although the flow is now controlled to reduce flood hazard. Indigenous riparian vegetation is limited, and highly modified with remnant/regenerating flood plain forest limited to small pockets of kahikatea dominant Bartons Bush in Trentham Park and podocarp/broad leaved forest across the steep western escarpment backdrop	m Natural Science Values
	Research and education	Flood plain management methods such as gravel extraction, preferred channel alignment, are balanced with initiatives to enhance ecological, recreational and heritage values in the GWRC Hutt River Environmental Strategy. Expressive of tectonic uplift with recent aggradation and river course transformed by 1855 Wairarapa earthquake- to create a broader shallower watercourse.	
	Rarity	Riparian and lowland forest habitats - tōtara, kahikatea, tawa and tītoki once covering the valley floor and river escarpments- are under represented nationally and are recognised by DOC as threatened environments. River environment provides seasonal habitat for at risk freshwater species such as long finned eel and common bully.	
	Ecosystem functioning	Ecosystem functioning is significantly degraded by majority loss of indigenous vegetation, impact of urban areas and flow controls but forms part of the habitat corridor between the mountains and the harbour.	

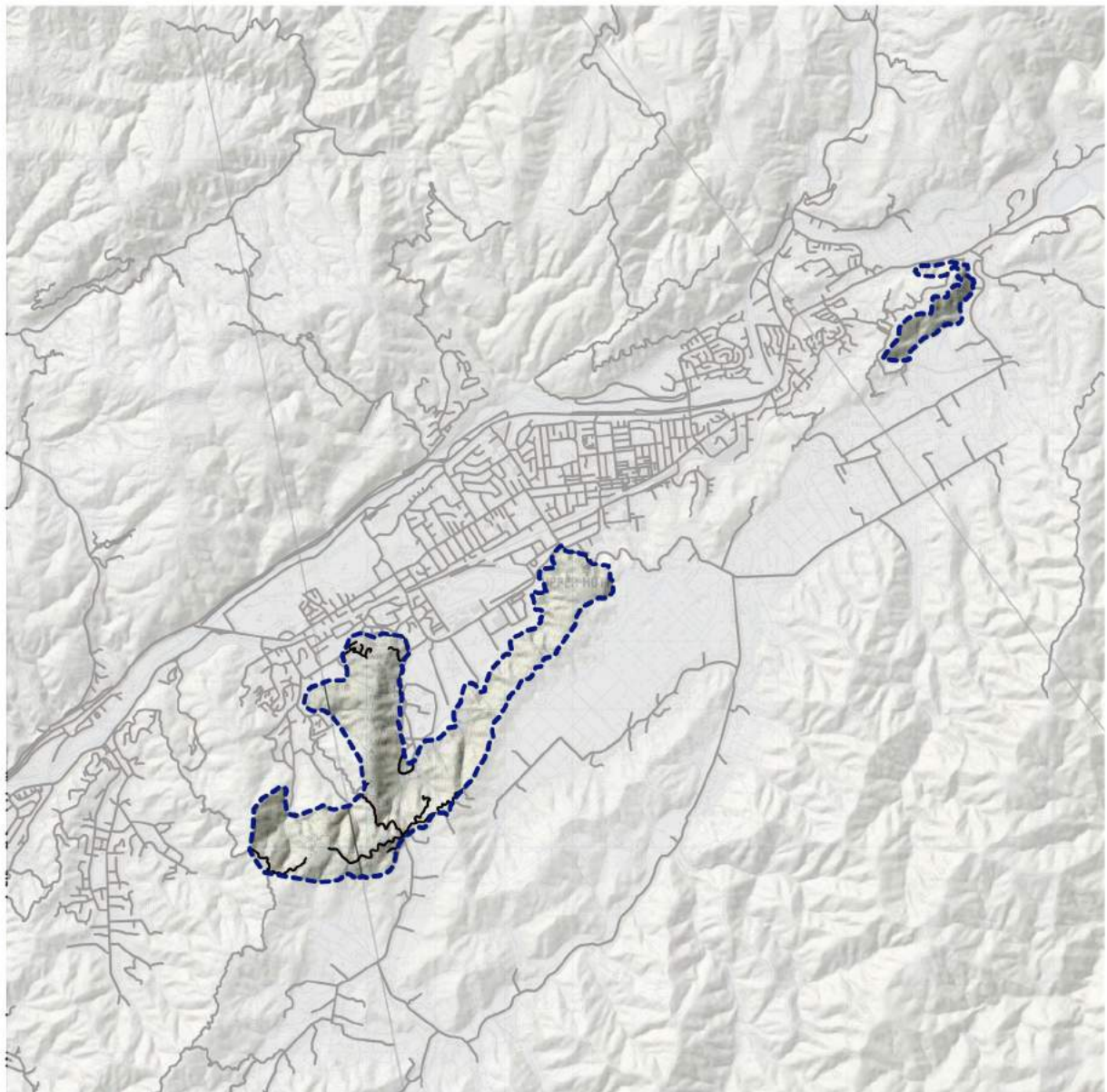
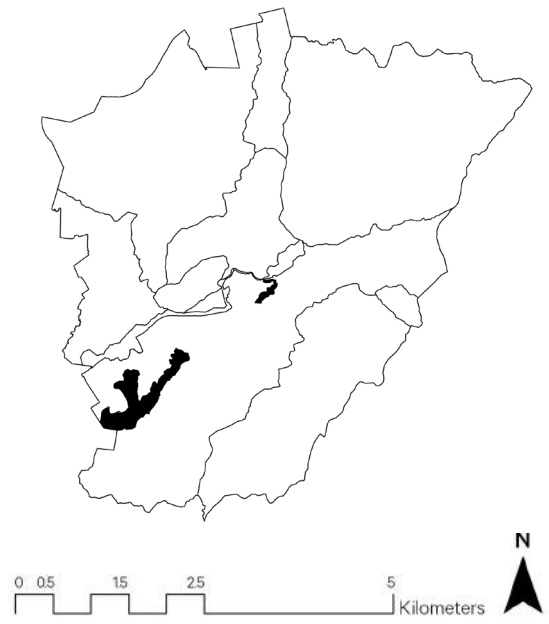
Sensory	Coherence	Although modified by flood plain management, the lower river corridor still expresses the patterns of a braided river system. There is an identifiable pattern of erosion and deposition to create broad river plain and reinforced by local landuse- flood banks and separation of urban areas.	mh
	Vividness	A highly memorable landscape, due to the scale of the river system, its setting to the western escarpment and SH2 over more than 50km. Widely recognised and iconic feature of the District linked to community identity.	
	Naturalness	The Hutt River landscape has a moderate and moderate to low degree of natural character. Natural patterns of hydrology and landform are clearly identifiable but modified by settlement, infrastructure (including SH2) and flood management. Perceptions of natural character are enhanced along the immediate river corridor- where open space areas provide some separation from SH2 and in contrast to surrounding urban areas.	
	Expressiveness/legibility	Expressive of alluvial and tectonic processes, distinct edge and navigable path through the District, obvious source of wider flood plain and broadest lowland areas.	h
	Transient values	Transient values are an important characteristic of this landscape, due to flood events and seasonal range of forest birds and fresh water fish species	h



Te Awakairangi - Hutt River, view towards Marchant Ridge. Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	Majority areas zoned for flood protection and open space including scenic reserves and park areas used for passive recreation - walking, picnics, swimming, camping grounds and trout fishing, in the upper reaches, as well as sports fields, play grounds and privately owned golf courses. Other features that are recognised in District Plan, through Statutory Acknowledgments and by NZAA and GWRC include the river as a significant primary contact recreation river and trout habitat, heritage sites linked to both Māori and European settlement including Pā and kāinga sites at Whakataka, Haukeretu (Māoribank) , Whirinaki and Mawai Hakona as well as heritage trees, important tree groupings, historic buildings and fault features (in Harcourt Park and near Te Marua, also recognised by the Geological Society of New Zealand). Draft District SNA study identifies the values of the river as significant- to have a crucial role in maintaining both upstream and downstream habitats and a number of potential SNA on private land including extension to Silverstream Scenic Reserve and remnant podocarp river plain forest within the Royal Wellington Golf Course - also gazetted as wildlife refuge under the Wildlife Act 1953.	vh
	Values to tangata whenua	Te Awakairangi has significant cultural associations for mana whenua as acknowledged through statutory acknowledgments for both Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui. These connections relate to cultural mythology, mahinga kai- traditional food and resource gathering areas-, patterns of settlement, trade, migration and significant events associated with the river, conflict and loss of land and traditional ways of life. Whirinaki Pā (near St Patricks College) is associated with Ngati Tama chief Te Kaeaea of Taranaki Whānui, a notable leader with a role through the Hutt Valley Campaign. Other settlements in this landscape that are recognised by Taranaki Whānui were at Whakataka, Haukeretu, Tōtara Park and Whakatiki. Te Awakairangi and its tributaries are Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa for mana whenua; the awa- river- from which Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui derive their cultural and spiritual identity and kaitiaki responsibilities. It has status, as acknowledged in the PRNP, as Ngā Mahi a ngā Tīpuna, Te Mahinga Kai, Wāhi Whakarite, Te Mana o te Tangata, Te Manawaroa o te Wai, Te Mana o Te Wai and Wāhi Mahara (refer to PRNP Chapter 12). Recognised traditional area for gathering piharau (blind eel), tuna (eel) and flax and as the largest source of freshwater in the region.	vh
	Historical associations	Linked to early settlement and transportation in the District including links to the wider region through Taita Gorge and impact of historic flood events. River and tracks along it formed important transportation route for both Māori and early Europeans linked to early exploration, trade, timber milling (kahikatea, matai, miro, pukatea, rimu and tōtara) and farming; with the river navigable by small trade vessels up until the 1855 earthquake. Landscape includes homestead sites of notable European settlers - Barton (first settler at Trentham, Bartons Bush) and McMurdy (first mayor, McMurdy Road) Sequence of past and present bridges along the river mark significant gains in infrastructure and access for the District leading to further development. Open space and recreational use of the Hutt River Valley continues early European contact with the area- prior to significant settlement- as marked by long time establishments such as the Wellington Golf Club (1895) and Te Marua Golf course (1924).	vh

EASTERN HILLS



Name:	Eastern Hills		
Description	Outlier Hills and backdrop to the Hutt Valley urban areas from the Taita Gorge to Wallaceville Road and escarpment above Te Marua		
ONFL/SAL	SAL		
Factors	Sub factors	Description	RS*
Natural Science	Representativeness	Outlier hills to the Rimutaka Ranges separated by Mangaroa River Basin, expressive of tectonic uplift and	Im
	Research and education	Expressive of tectonic uplift and hydrological processes along the Wellington fault	
	Rarity	Contributes to lowland forested environments now uncommon in the north island- beech-kamahi-kanuka forest. Includes remnant hard beech forest, most of which is unprotected (privately owned) in the Wellington region. At risk-declining and naturally uncommon and threatened- nationally vulnerable flora species identified in remnant bush areas. For example, beech mistletoe and spotted sun orchid. At risk fauna includes ornate skink, pacific gecko and regionally sparse bellbird and whitehead and possible habitat for NZ falcon.	
	Ecosystem functioning	The area contributes to ecological links between the ranges and the river and along the Hutt Valley-from the mountains to the sea. Habitat corridor for indigenous bird species.	Natural Science values
Sensory	Coherence	Distinct vegetated backdrop to the urban areas of the District and part of a continuous Eastern Hill landform from Mt Marua to Seaview, Lower Hutt.	m
	Vividness	A memorable landscape feature commonly known as the 'Eastern Hills' and open/relatively undeveloped setting to urban areas.	Aesthetic values
	Naturalness	Moderate natural character associated with unmodified landforms, regenerating bush and larger forest specimens with low level/ clustered patterns of settlement set off the ridgeline/ prominent spurs.	
	Expressiveness/legibility	A distinct edge and backdrop to the urban areas of the District, expressive of uplift and hydrological patterns including tributaries to the Mangaroa and Te Awakairangi-Hutt River	m
	Transient values	Associated with ranging habits of fauna from the Remutaka Pass and ranges to the Wellington harbour.	Im

Shared or recognised	Shared and recognised values	Areas identified as open space including Wi Tako Scenic Reserve and regenerating bush areas off Alexander Rd with valued recreation tracks extending above Pine Haven Basin. Rural Hill and Rural Lifestyle zoning maintained over much of the area contributing to perceptions of natural character. Taita Gorge and Mt Marua headland spurs are well known landmarks in the District, as gateways to the Hutt Valley/urban areas of the District. Operative District Plan recognises visual and landscape values over the majority of the area with well known lookouts over the city from Blue Mountains, Wallace and Mt Marua Rd. Lower slopes and bush setting valued as residential areas with more recent development in ridgeline areas at Mt Marua and further residential landuse proposed in the Guilford Block above Pinehaven. Draft District study identifies a number of potential SNA on private land within this landscape, including Ecclesfield and Wi Tako Reserves and land protected through QEII covenants. Public land SNA study to be completed in 2018.	mh
	Values to tangata whenua	Associated with access to forest and wetland resources in the Mangaroa Valley. Wi Tako Ngatata Reserve is now owned by Taranaki Whānui; as part of treaty settlement redress.	m
	Historical associations	Setting to some of the earliest European homes and holiday baches at Pinehaven and in the Blue Mountains area during the late 1880s early 1900s. Linked to early infrastructure/establishment of the Wairarapa Line, set to the base of the Eastern hills and tunneling structures. Forest clearance associated with early milling and farming activity in the District with forest plantations established in the area in the 1920's (by the Goodwin family)continued above Pinehaven.	m



Kirton Drive, view towards Rimutaka Ranges Image source: Isthmus Group Ltd

Appendix 1 Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement

Under the RMA, District Plans need to give effect to the Regional Policy Statement. In the Upper Hutt City District this means that the methodology used in a District wide study needs to be consistent with any outstanding natural feature and landscape and significant amenity feature and landscape assessment framework provided in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) or in an adopted assessment of the regions landscapes. This assessment has considered the landscape policies of the operative Regional Policy Statement.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council recognises landscape as one of the 11 issues to be addressed in the operative Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and:

“The regionally significant management issue for landscape is:

inappropriate modification and destruction of outstanding natural features and landscapes, and special amenity landscapes”.

In giving effect to the RPS, the overall purpose of this study is in keeping with the RPS landscape objective. To ensure:

“The region’s outstanding natural features, landscapes and special amenity landscapes, are identified and their values protected, maintained or enhanced.”

Further consideration of the RPS in this study relates to the use of:

- A comprehensive landscape character assessment as the foundation for the identification and evaluation of outstanding natural features and landscapes and significant amenity features and landscapes, as addressed in Method 49 of the operative RPS.
- A consistent methodology to identify outstanding natural features and landscapes and special amenity features and landscapes through complementary definitions, criteria and process. Importantly, the tripartite definition of landscape that underpins this study (as described in the introduction to this report) recognises that of the RPS:

“Landscape is shaped and constantly re-shaped by a combination of natural processes and human actions. The landscape is the result of geological and ecological processes over time –such as plate tectonics, landslide and weathering, water flow under and over the surface, the climate, and the influence of plants and animals – all overlaid by the effects of a wide range of human activities”.

- Complementary definitions used in the identification and evaluation of outstanding natural features and landscapes and significant amenity features and landscapes. In particular, the ‘test’ used to distinguish outstanding natural features and landscapes (as detailed in Part 3 of this report) complements that of the RPS:

“outstanding natural features or landscapes[are] exceptional or out of the ordinary and that its natural components dominate over the influence of human activity.”

- The use of complementary natural science, sensory and shared or recognised criteria (aligned with the ‘amended pigeon bay’ or WESI factors) to identify and evaluate outstanding natural features and landscapes and significant amenity features and landscapes. In relation to the assessment of values associated with sensory factors, as is also discussed in Part 3, other aesthetic paradigms are relevant to the communities of Upper Hutt. That is: in addition to the consideration of coherence, memorability (synonymous with the term ‘vividness’ used in the RPS) and naturalness, other relevant aesthetic conventions were considered in this study, namely, the picturesque, the sublime and the aesthetic of a ‘working landscape’.

Greater Wellington Operative Regional Policy Statement-Landscape Assessment

Policies

Policy 24: Identifying outstanding natural features and landscapes – district and regional plans

District and regional plans shall identify outstanding natural features and landscapes having determined that the natural feature or landscape is exceptional or out of the ordinary and that its natural components dominate over the influence of human activity, taking into account the following factors:

- (a) *Natural science values: these values relate to the geological, ecological, topographical and natural process components of the natural feature or landscape:*
- *Representativeness: the combination of natural components that form the feature or landscape strongly typifies the character of an area.*
 - *Research and education: all or parts of the feature or landscape are important for natural science research and education.*
 - *Rarity: the feature or landscape is unique or rare within the district or region, and few comparable examples exist.*
 - *Ecosystem functioning: the presence of healthy ecosystems is clearly evident in the feature or landscape.*
- (b) *Aesthetic values: these values relate to scenic perceptions of the feature or landscape:*
- *Coherence: the patterns of land cover and land use are in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of landform and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.*
 - *Vividness: the feature or landscape is visually striking and is widely recognised within the local and wider community for its memorable and sometimes iconic qualities.*
 - *Naturalness: the feature or landscape appears largely unmodified by human activity and the patterns of landform and land cover appear to be largely the result of intact and healthy natural systems.*
- (c) *Expressiveness (legibility): the feature or landscape clearly shows the formative processes that led to its existing character.*
- (d) *Transient values: the consistent and noticeable occurrence of transient natural events, such as seasonal change in vegetation or in wildlife movement, contributes to the character of the feature or landscape.*
- (e) *Shared and recognised values: the feature or landscape is widely known and is highly valued for its contribution to local identity within the immediate and wider community.*
- (f) *Tangata whenua values: Maori values inherent in the feature or landscape add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special place.*
- (g) *Historical associations: knowledge of historic events that occurred in and around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community attaches to the natural feature or landscape.*

Policy 26: Identifying special amenity landscapes – district and regional plans

District and regional plans may identify special amenity landscapes taking into account the following factors:

- (a) *Natural science values: these values relate to the geological, ecological, topographical and natural process components of the landscape:*
- *Representativeness: the combination of natural components that form the landscape strongly typifies the character of an area.*
 - *Research and education: all or parts of the landscape are important for natural science research and education.*
 - *Rarity: the landscape is unique or rare within the district or region, and few comparable examples exist.*
 - *Ecosystem functioning: the presence of healthy ecosystems is clearly evident in the landscape.*
- (b) *Aesthetic values: these values relate to scenic perceptions of the feature or landscape:*
- *Coherence: the patterns of land cover and land use are in harmony with the underlying pattern of landform and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.*
 - *Vividness: the landscape is visually striking and is widely recognised within the local and wider community for its memorable and sometimes iconic qualities.*
 - *Naturalness: the patterns of landform and land cover appear to be largely the result of intact and healthy natural systems.*
- (c) *Expressiveness (legibility): the landscape clearly shows the formative processes that led to its existing character.*
- (d) *Transient values: the consistent and noticeable occurrence of transient natural events, such as seasonal change in vegetation or in wildlife movement, contributes to the character of the landscape.*
- (e) *Shared and recognised values: the landscape is widely known and is highly valued for its contribution to local identity within the immediate and wider community.*
- (f) *Tangata whenua values: Maori values inherent in the landscape add to the landscape being recognised as a special place.*
- (g) *Historical associations: knowledge of historic events that occurred in and around the landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community attaches to the landscape.*

Appendix 2 Information Sources

GIS Data

Archaeological site recording scheme. <http://www.archsite.org.nz/>

Greater Wellington Regional Council Open Data Portal. <http://data-gwrc.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Koordinates. <https://koordinates.com/>

Land Information New Zealand. <https://www.linz.govt.nz/>

LRIS Portal. <https://iris.scinfo.org.nz/>

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Upper Hutt City Council District Plan 2004, Upper Hutt City Council
<https://upperhuttcity.com/planning/district-plan/>

Upper Hutt City Council

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Developing the 2014 Rural Strategy, Upper Hutt City Council
<https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Developing-the-2014-Rural-Strategy.pdf>

Explore Upper Hutt - Walkways booklet (2015), Upper Hutt City Council
https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Explore-Upper-Hutt_Walkways-Booklet_web.pdf

Guildford Timber Land Swap (2015), Boffa Miskell
<https://consultation.upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Guildford-land-swap-discussion-document.pdf>

Land Use Strategy Upper Hutt 2016-2043, Upper Hutt City Council
<https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/UH-LUS-Draft-FINAL-V10.pdf> Mangaroa River Flood Hazard Assessment (2015) Jacobs & Craig Martell Environmental Consultant <https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/MangaroaFinalrevF.pdf>

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<https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FP-Mangaroa-River-Flood-Hazard-Assesment-Report.pdf>

Maymorn Structure Plan (2011), Beca & Upper Hutt City Council
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Technical Workshop Summary Report Upper Hutt City Vision Strategy Input to preparation for the long term plan 2012-22 (2011) Upper Hutt City Council & Urbanism Plus

Our Parks and Open Spaces Draft Strategy (2017) Isthmus & Upper Hutt City Council

Pinehaven Stream, Floodplain Management Plan (2015), Upper Hutt City Council & Greater Wellington Regional Council

Southern Hills Environmental Management Study Upper Hutt (2008), Boffa Miskell
<https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Southern-Hills-Environmental-Management-Study.pdf>

Upper Hutt City Council District Plan 2004, Upper Hutt City Council
<https://upperhuttcity.com/planning/district-plan/>

Upper Hutt City Long Term Plan 2015-2025, Upper Hutt City Council
<https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Long-Term-Plan-2015-2025.pdf>

Upper Hutt Rural Strategy Foundation Report - Volume 1 (2015) Perception Planning
<https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/UHRS-Foundation-Report-Final.pdf>

Upper Hutt Walking and Cycling Strategy 2012 (DRAFT), Upper Hutt City Council

Upper Hutt Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022, Upper Hutt City Council
<https://upperhuttcity.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Sustainability-Strategy-2012-2022.pdf>

Upper Hutt Urban Growth Strategy (2007), Upper Hutt City Council

Upper Valley Horse Trail Mangaroa Valley and Whitemans Valley Feasibility Study (2015) (DRAFT), Calibre Consulting

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Greater Wellington Regional Council Hutt River Corridor User Survey 2016, Wellington Regional Council

Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan - for the Hutt River and its Environment (2001), Wellington Regional Council
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Our-Services/Flood-Protection/Hutt/FP-Hutt-River-FMP.pdf>

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<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-publications/Key-Native-Ecosystem-Plan-for-Akatarawa-Forest.pdf>

Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Kaitoke Regional Park 2014-17, Greater Wellington Regional Council
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-publications/KeyNativeEcosystemPlanforKaitokeRegionalPark.pdf>

Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Keith George Memorial Park 2015-2018, Greater Wellington Regional Council
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-publications/Key-Native-Ecosystem-Plan-for-Keith-George2.pdf>

Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Trentham Memorial Park 2015-18, Greater Wellington Regional Council
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-publications/WGNDOS-1526908-v1-TrenthamMemorialPark2015-18final.pdf>

Key Native Ecosystem Plan for Pakuratahi 2014-17, Greater Wellington Regional Council
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-publications/KNEPlanforPakuratahi2014-2017.pdf>

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Wellington Region Open Space Strategy & Action Plan (2009), Wellington Regional Council
http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-reports/Report_PDFs/2009_545_2_Attachment.pdf

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Tangata Whenua

Cultural Values Report Te Awakairangi - Hutt River. Raukura Consultants
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Resource-Consents/Western-Rivers/Hutt-River/AppendixKCulturalImpactReports.pdf>

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Ngāti Toa and the Colonial State - A Report to the Waitangi Tribunal (1998)
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Aesthetic values: relevant paradigms

In the Greater Wellington Operative Regional Policy Statement an information processing paradigm of aesthetics and the criteria of coherence, vividness and naturalness are recommended in the assessment of aesthetic values at a district level. In this assessment synonymous criteria have been chosen to evaluate a features or landscapes overall significance as are detailed in Part 3. However, given the District's unique patterns of landform, landcover and landuse, and the finer grain with which a district assessment is carried out, this paradigm is unlikely to capture other commonly held perspectives of aesthetic value that can contribute to the identification of Upper Hutt's ONFL andSAL.

The aesthetic of the sublime is likely to be relevant given the extent of ranges in the District, prominent topography and remoteness of many areas. Sublime landscapes tend to capture New Zealanders love of the outdoors, and the feeling of being surrounded or dominated by the forces of nature, where there is;

- a brooding and expansive landscape
- a series of, or an exceptional prominent feature
- a sense of drama, awe and precariousness
- a sense of wilderness, a dominance of nature over human influence

In contrast, agricultural landscapes which the District is also known for, are often aligned with the conventions of the picturesque. These landscapes aesthetic values are associated with;

- a sense of depth through distinct planes of foreground, middle ground and distance
- framed views
- contrast of light and dark
- pockets of 'wilderness', typically native bush gullies and headlands as is found in many of our rural landscapes.

Increasingly, and also of relevance to this District, the aesthetic of a 'working' landscape is recognised as a contributor to aesthetic values. The appearance of sound ecological function can generate landscape values and may be a significant contributor to the high public preference ratings wetland areas achieve in landscape perceptions studies³⁸. Productive landscapes may also be associated with landscape values, particularly where they are perceived as established, traditional 'continuing cultural landscapes'³⁹. The everyday values of continuing cultural landscapes have been recognised internationally by the Council

38 Fairweather, J. R. & Swaffield, S. (2004). *Public perceptions of outstanding natural landscapes in the Auckland Region: Research Report 273*. Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit, Lincoln University. p 45-48

39 "Continuing cultural landscapes are 'organically evolving' productive landscapes that have retained relative continuity of landuse over a long period of time. These are landscapes that have "an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in process". UNESCO. (2008). *Cultural landscapes*. Accessed Jan 2008. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/cultural-landscape>

of Europe's Landscape Convention⁴⁰ and the European Commission Rural Development Programme⁴¹. Universally significant (or outstanding) continuing cultural landscapes are recognised by UNESCO as world heritage landscapes and by the IUCN in their Category 5 'Protected landscapes and seascapes'⁴². In New Zealand, these values are also acknowledged by the evident inclusion of productive landscapes in a district's identified landscape resource (as onf/l's or saf/l's) and by planning frameworks that link the continuation of that productive landuse with the protection of those values. The aesthetic values of a 'continuing cultural landscape' can also be associated with an acceptance or a preference for 'cultured nature'. (as discussed below).

Aesthetic values: including naturalness

Following best practice, this assessment utilises natural character criteria (criteria of naturalness) included in the recent interim Decision of the Environment Court in Long Bay Okura Great Parks Society Inc v North Shore City Council:

"We consider that the list becomes more useful; if it is modified and extended so that the list of criteria of naturalness under section 6(b) of the RMA then includes:

- relatively unmodified and legible physical landform and relief*
- the landscape being uncluttered by structures and/or 'obvious' human influence*
- the presence of water (lakes, rivers, sea)*
- the presence of vegetation (especially native vegetation) and other ecological patterns.*

The absence or compromised presence of one or more of these criteria does not mean that the landscape is non-natural, just that it is less natural. There is a spectrum of naturalness from a pristine natural landscape to a cityscape, and a 'cultured nature' landscape may still be an outstanding natural landscape."⁴³

In addition, this assessment takes into account the Environmental Indicator Program (EIP) initiated by the Ministry for the Environment and generally accepted by the Environment Court. This program equates naturalness with a degree or level of natural character and, while carried out in the context of Section 6a) develops a definition which can, in practical terms, be applied to any landscape.

"Natural character is a term used to describe the naturalness of all coastal environments. The degree or level of natural character within an area depends on: (1) the extent to which natural elements, patterns and processes occur (2) The nature and extent of modifications to the ecosystems and landscape/seascape. The highest degree of natural character (greatest naturalness) occurs where there is least modification. The effects of different types of modification upon the natural character of an area vary with the context, and may be perceived differently by different parts of the community."⁴⁴

Perception studies have also been used as a guide where they provide useful information relating to the significance of pristine versus cultured nature which is relevant to productive landscapes of the Upper Hutt. In particular, Swaffield and Fairweather's 2004 Q-sort study in the Auckland Region identified key elements of outstanding natural landscapes; medium to high relief, water, tall vegetation, beach or rocky shorelines, absence of human artefacts and the key qualities as; legible and coherent landscape structure and patterns, variety, sense of tranquillity, indigenous New Zealand identity and

40 CoE (2008). European landscape convention: explanatory report. Accessed Jan 2008. <http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/en/Reports/Html/176.htm>

41 EC (2005) Council decision on: Community strategic guidelines for rural development; programming period 2007-2013. Accessed May 2009. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32006D0144:EN:NOT>

42 IUCN (2005). The protected landscape approach. Accessed Jan 2009. <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/exec/dbtwpub.dll>

43 Long Bay–Okura Great Parks Society Incorporated v North Shore City Council (A78/08) at para [135].

44 MfE. (2002). Ministry for the environment environmental performance indicators: landscape aspect of natural character. MfE, Wellington.

sense of openness and visual access. However, this study also identified

“some structural shifts in public preference [in contrast to their 1984 study]. Coastal landscapes, mixed pasture and bush hill country, and lowland wetlands have gone up in relative value.”

The study also concluded:

“the increase in value of lowland wetlands reflects a growing appreciation of indigenous ecology, and awareness of the increasing rarity of these landscapes, due to drainage and agricultural intensification. The increased value attached to agricultural landscapes with pasture may also reflect the growing demand from urban commuters for rural lifestyle, and the consequential pressure on the more picturesque inland landscapes.”

Where the cultured nature paradigm is accepted by an individual the perception study also asserts:

“there is much greater acceptance of slightly modified to modified environments as being outstanding. The presence of humans undertaking recreational activity or other forms of low intensity productivity remain consistent with a landscape being ‘natural’ and may complement or even enhance its outstanding values”⁴⁵

In Swaffield and Fairweather’s 1999 Coromandel study it was also noted that:

“those [surveyed with a] ‘loading’ on this [cultured nature] factor are not very discriminating about differences between what is endemic (e.g. native forest) and exotic or introduced (e.g. pine forest) with generally neutral reactions to the latter.”⁴⁶

Expressiveness: including mental maps

As an important perceptual criteria, expressiveness can be literally interpreted as the extent to which the formative natural and cultural processes contributing to a landscape or feature are obvious or legible. Legibility can however also be associated with how we “read” our surroundings and find landscapes or features more satisfying or pleasing when we can understand them clearly and when they convey a richness of information. The theory of biological aesthetics (discussed previously) would also suggest that we understand landscapes when the elements are clearly defined and fit together in a coherent manner, where they make sense with their context and create a clear mental map.

The journey from Otaki to Otaki Forks, for example, creates a clear mental map. This is the transition from the urban centre to the entrance to the Tararua Forest Park. It has strong legibility because the transition from the urban centre, through the alluvial plains and up into bush clad hills along the Otaki Gorge bush is accompanied by a distinguishable ascent and a sequence of views of recognisable peaks in the Tararuas. The Hautere totara avenue along this route is one of several distinctive landmarks that help make this pathway memorable and acts as a gateway between the alluvial plains and the foothills.

Mental maps describe how we spatially organise landscapes in our minds. The model based on the research of Kevin Lynch is that we imagine landscapes as a series of different character areas, edges, routes, nodes and landmarks.

A mental map of Upper Hutt might contain the following main elements:

- Encircling ranges, named peaks and prominent ridgelines such as Marchant Ridge;
- The main spine created by the Hutt River and SH2 with the urban areas strung off this;

⁴⁵ Fairweather, J. R. & Swaffield, S. (2004). Public perceptions of outstanding natural landscapes in the Auckland Region: Research Report 273. Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit, Lincoln University. p 45-48

⁴⁶ Fairweather, J. R. & Swaffield, S. (1999). Public perceptions of natural and modified landscapes of the Coromandel Peninsula, NZ.: Research Report 241. Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit, Lincoln University.

- Distinct character areas of the basins and valleys confined by the ranges and their outlier hills;
- Gateway/ transition features such as the Remutaka Saddle and Tāita Gorge
- Strong edges created by the western escarpment and the eastern hills ; and
- Nodes where rivers meet, also the intersection of secondary routes in and out of the District.

The main public roads through the District have a particularly important effect on how people construct mental maps of a particular landscape. Most people see the landscape from main roads so this will determine what they experience and how they perceive Upper Hutt's landscapes. Arriving or leaving an area also has ritual qualities that tend to heighten observation of those landscapes.