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## 12.0 LANDSCAPE AND AMENITY VALUES

### 12.1 Introduction

The landscape and visual amenity of the District has been identified by the community as an important resource. It is therefore important that the development and enhancement of the District's own unique identity is sought in conjunction with the development of resources.

Attributes which contribute to this identity include:

- (i) a diverse range of landscapes and resources;
- (ii) a cultural heritage that includes a range of urban and rural communities together with buildings and structures and open space networks;
- (iii) lifestyle opportunities that reflect the District's geography and culture;

These attributes can be drawn on to promote the District as:

- (a) a District with high quality rural landscape and amenity values;
- (b) a District with areas of indigenous vegetation with related recreational values;
- (c) a District with extensive sustainable plantation forests that form an integral part of the landscape and amenity of the District and provide local and regional employment.

### 12.2 Objectives

- 12.2.1 The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values, and the protection of special landscapes.
- 12.2.2 The protection and enhancement of the natural character of rural areas of the District.
- 12.2.3 Residential areas that are peaceful and attractive places in which to live.
- 12.2.4 The enhancement of amenity values in the District's commercial areas.
- 12.2.5 The avoidance, remedy, or mitigation of adverse visual effects of industrial and commercial activities.

### 12.3 Policies

- 12.3.1 To protect all special landscapes and landscape features of the District including areas of indigenous forest and vegetation.
- 12.3.2 To protect and enhance the amenity values of rural areas in the District.
- 12.3.3 To encourage recreational activities that take advantage of, and promote, the appreciation of the landscape and visual amenity of the District.



- 12.3.4 To encourage the establishment and maintenance of visual and physical links between urban and rural areas through the use of open space frameworks.
- 12.3.5 To recognise the value of the landscape and visual amenity of the District as a basis for tourism recreational activities, particularly in relation to the main tourist routes.
- 12.3.6 To promote a high standard of urban design.
- 12.3.7 To ensure that the adverse effects of activities on the amenity values of the District are avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

#### 12.4 Methods to Achieve Objectives and Policies

The following identifies the methods that are to be used to achieve the objectives and policies contained in this section of the District Plan:

##### 12.4.1 General

- (i) Planting that enhances the landscape and visual amenity of the District will be encouraged.

*See Section 9 (Transportation).  
Refer to Policies 12.3.1, 12.3.5, 12.3.6 and 12.3.8.*

- (ii) The District Council will have regard to the matters outlined in Part II of the Resource Management Act 1991 when considering applications for resource consents. Therefore, the Council must recognise and provide for the protection of landscapes, and indigenous flora and habitat of indigenous fauna, from inappropriate development, and have particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values and the quality of the environment.

*See Section 5 (Administration).  
Refer to Policies 12.3.2, 12.3.3, 12.3.6, 12.3.8.*

- (iii) The provisions included in the Reserve Zone promote a wide range of recreational activities within Council reserves while maintaining a high standard of visual amenity and protection.

*See Section 25 (Reserve Zone).  
Refer to Policy 12.3.4.*

- (iv) Open space such as parks and reserves will be encouraged in areas of urban expansion.

*See Section 25 (Reserve Zone).  
Refer to Policy 12.3.5.*



- (v) A Heritage and Ecological Inventory has been adopted by Council which identifies special heritage and ecological features including wetlands, areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, and natural features and landscapes within the District.

*See Section 15 (Heritage and Ecological Protection).  
Refer to Policy 12.3.6.*

- (vi) Urban design will be enhanced by the use of the bulk and location requirements in all zones, and the use of subdivision and development standards.

*See Part C  
Refer to Policy 12.3.7.*

- (vii) Amenity plantings to screen unsightly activities such as quarries, land fill sites, and industrial activities will be required through resource consent conditions.

*Refer to Policies 12.3.6 and 12.3.8.*

## 12.5 Principal Reasons

Consultation revealed strong support within the community for the protection of landscape and amenity values as an important resource for the District. There are large areas of indigenous vegetation within the District, particularly in the north eastern parts of the District.



Open space made up of predominantly pastoral farming and forestry, forms a major part of the landscape character of the District. Where forestry is included as part of a farming operation it is desirable that such plantations are integrated into the landscape. Guidelines for achieving this integration have been developed by the Logging Industry Research Association.

In addition to the views of the community, Section 6 of the Resource Management Act 1991 states as a matter of national importance:

- “(b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.
- (c) The protection of areas of indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.”

Section 7 of the Act requires Council to have particular regard to:

- “(c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values
- (f) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.

Objectives and policies have been developed to ensure that the landscape and visual amenity of the District is maintained and enhanced.”

## 12.6 Anticipated Environmental Results

It is anticipated that the objectives, policies and methods included in this section will achieve the following environmental results:

- (i) Land uses which maintain the productive capability of land and water while protecting existing habitats of indigenous flora and fauna.
- (ii) Retention and maintenance of landscape and amenity values which provide recreation and tourism opportunities.
- (iii) Retention and maintenance of urban amenity through the use of open space.
- (iv) Protection and enhancement of the diverse range of landscapes throughout the District.