# **Definitions**

BIODIVERSITY COMPENSATION¹  BIODIVERSITY OFFSET²	means a conservation outcome that meets the requirements in Appendix 4 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and results from actions that are intended to compensate for any more than minor residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity after all appropriate avoidance, minimisation, remediation, and biodiversity offsetting measures have been sequentially applied  means a measurable conservation outcome that meets the requirements in Appendix 3 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and results from actions that are intended to:  a) redress any more than minor residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity after all appropriate avoidance, minimisation, and remediation measures have been sequentially applied; and  b) (b) achieve a net gain in type, amount, and condition of indigenous
	biodiversity compared to that lost.
CULTURAL HARVEST <sup>3</sup>	Cultural harvest means indigenous vegetation clearance for cultural use and in accordance with tikanga and kaitiakitanga, mahinga kai, collection or mining of Pounamu, Aotea stone or rock where this is undertaken by Poutini Ngāi Tahu. This includes clearance of vegetation by Poutini Ngāi Tahu for the maintenance of Poutini Ngāi Tahu Land.
ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT <sup>4</sup>	means the ecological districts as shown in McEwen, W Mary (ed), 1987. Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand. Wellington: Department of Conservation.
EFFECTS MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY <sup>5</sup>	means an approach to managing the adverse effects of an activity on indigenous biodiversity that requires that:  a) adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then d) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible; then e) where biodiversity offsetting of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, biodiversity compensation is provided; then f) if biodiversity compensation is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided.
IMPROVED PASTURE <sup>6</sup>	means an area of land where exotic pasture species have been deliberately sown or maintained for the purpose of pasture production, and species composition and growth has been modified and is being managed for livestock grazing
INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY <sup>7</sup>	means the living organisms that occur naturally in New Zealand, and the ecological complexes of which they are part, including all forms of indigenous flora, fauna, and fungi, and their habitats

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.018), Frida Inta (S553.004) and Buller Conservation Group (S552.004)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Frida Inta (S553.004) and Buller Conservation Group (S552.004), Department of Conservation (S553.004)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.062), Ngāi Tahu (S620.040)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Buller Conservation Group (S552.024) and Frida Inta (S553.024), Chris & Jan Coll (S558.092), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.092), Laura Coll McLaughlin (S474.092), Peter Langford (S615.044), Karamea Lime Company (S614.044), Koiterangi Lime Co LTD (S577.035), Catherine Smart-Simpson (S564.028), William McLaughlin (S567.174), Steve Croasdale (S516.035) and Geoff Volckman (S563.023)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Te Mana Ora (S190.002), Department of Conservation (S602.019)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> New Zealand Agricultural Aviation Association (S166.008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Manawa Energy (S438.020), Suzanne Hills (S443.003), Federated Farmers of New Zealand (S524.004)

INDIGENOUS VEGETATION <sup>8</sup>	means vascular and non-vascular plants that, in relation to a particular area, are native to the ecological district in which that area is located
INDIGENOUS VEGETATION CLEARANCE	means the clearing, or removal <u>,damage or destruction</u> <sup>9</sup> of indigenous vegetation by any means, including cutting, crushing, <u>smothering</u> <sup>10</sup> , <u>mobstocking</u> <sup>11</sup> cultivation, irrigation, chemical application, drainage, stopbanking, overplanting, or burning <u>but excluding the clearance of indigenous vegetation forming an under storey within an <u>exotic plantation forest</u><sup>12</sup></u>
PARENT TITLE <sup>13</sup>	means a record of title in existence on 14 July 2022
POUTINI NGĀI TAHU ACTIVITIES	means the use of land and/or buildings for traditional Māori activities and includes making and/or creating cultural goods, textiles and art, medicinal and food gathering, waka ama, events, management and activities that recognise and provide for the special relationship between Poutini Ngāi Tahu and places of cultural importance.
POUTINI NGĀI TAHU LAND <sup>14</sup>	means specified Māori Land that is owned or managed by Poutini Ngāi Tahu.
SPECIFIED MĀORI LAND <sup>15</sup>	Means, in relation to the ecosystems and biodiversity chapter, land that is any of the following:
	<ul> <li>a. Māori customary land and Māori freehold land (as defined in Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993):</li> <li>b. land set apart as a Māori reservation under Part 17 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 or its predecessor, the Māori Affairs Act 1953:</li> <li>c. land held by or on behalf of an iwi or a hapū if the land was transferred from the Crown, a Crown body, or a local authority with the intention of returning the land to the holders of mana whenua over the land:</li> <li>d. land vested in the Māori Trustee that is constituted as a Māori reserve by or under the Māori Reserved Land Act 1955, and remains subject to that Act:</li> <li>e. land that forms part of a natural feature that has been declared under an Act to be a legal entity or person (including Te Urewera land within the meaning of section 7 of the Te Urewera Act 2014):</li> <li>f. the maunga listed in section 10 of the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014:</li> <li>g. Treaty settlement land, being land held by a post-settlement governance entity (as defined in the Urban Development Act 2020) where the land was transferred or vested and held (including land held in the name of a person such as a tipuna of the claimant group, rather than the entity itself):  <ul> <li>i. as part of redress for the settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims; or</li> <li>ii. by the exercise of rights under a Treaty settlement Act or Treaty settlement deed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
THREATENED ENVIRONMENTS	means the threatened environments as shown in Walker S, Cieraad E, Barringer J 2015. The Threatened Environment Classification for New Zealand 2012: a guide for users. Landcare Research Report LC2184."

<sup>8</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.082, S560.505), Frida Inta (S553.074), Buller Conservation Group (S552.074), Suzanne Hills (S443.003)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.065), Buller Conservation Group (S553.025) and Frida Inta (S553.025), Department of Conservation (S602.014)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.065)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.014)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Buller Conservation Group (\$553.025) and Frida Inta (\$553.025)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> William McLaughlin (S567.297), Chris & Jan Coll (S558.227), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.227) and Laura Coll McLaughlin (S574.227

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Te Tumu Paeroa (S440.023)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Te Tumu Paeroa (S440.023)

# Part 2 — District-Wide Matters- Te Wāhanga 2 - Ngā Kaupapa ā-Rohe Whānui - Natural Environment Values - Ngā Uara Taiao Aotūroa [Title Page]

This section will include the provisions for ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, natural character, natural features and landscapes and public access and the margins of waterbodies<sup>17</sup>. It will identify the specific features and places on the West Coast that are important to those values, including any Outstanding Landscapes or Significant Natural Areas. It will also include the Objectives, Policies and any Rules for the management of these areas.

# ECO Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity -Ngā Pūnaha Rauropi me te Kanorau Koiora Overview

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, describes the variety and diversity of all life forms and the ecosystems they inhabit. Indigenous biodiversity is biodiversity that is native to New Zealand/Aotearoa me Te Waipounamu and relates to individual birds, plants, insects and other species and also includes the ecosystems where these species live, such as forests and sand dunes.

The West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini contains a significant amount of intact natural diversity by comparison with other parts of New Zealand/Aotearoa me Te Waipounamu. Continuous tracts of lowland and coastal forests and freshwater as well as coastal wetlands cover large areas. In many places indigenous ecosystems and habitats extend unbroken from the mountains to the sea. 84% of the land area is under the management of the Department of Conservation. In total an estimated 90% of the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini is covered in indigenous vegetation - compared with 24% nationally.

While the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini is fortunate to have a wide range of diverse and intact ecosystems and vegetation types, there are some ecosystems and vegetation types not well represented in the protected areas network. These are generally ecosystems found in the lowland areas of the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini. Alongside this, parts of the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini include the last habitats or strongholds of some native species threatened with extinction. Well-functioning ecosystems provide resilience to climate change and can provide protection to communities from natural hazards<sup>18</sup>

Under the RMA, the district and regional councils share responsibility for maintaining indigenous biodiversity. Te Tai o Poutini Plan is District councils are 19 responsible for protecting and maintaining terrestrial (land-based) ecosystems, including the margins of the coast and waterbodies and the West Coast Regional Council is responsible for protecting and maintaining the non-terrestrial ecosystems (rivers, lakes, wetlands and the coast below mean high water springs). Poutini Ngāi Tahu also have cultural responsibilities as mana whenua and kaitiaki.

The RMA requires Te Tai o Poutini Plan <u>district councils<sup>20</sup></u> to manage indigenous biodiversity in two particular ways. Firstly, the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land for the purpose of maintaining indigenous biodiversity. Secondly, it is required to recognise and provide for the protection of areas of significant indigenous regulation and significant indigenous regulation and significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna; and more broadly, for the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land for the purpose of maintaining indigenous biodiversity.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Chris & Jan Coll (S558.092), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.092), Laura Coll McLaughlin (S474.092), Peter Langford (S615.044), Karamea Lime Company (S614.044), Koiterangi Lime Co LTD (S577.035), Catherine Smart-Simpson (S564.028), William McLaughlin (S567.174), Steve Croasdale (S516.035) and Geoff Volckman (S563.023)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.061)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.192)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Buller Conservation Group (S552.059) and Frida Inta (S553.059)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Buller Conservation Group (S552.060) and Frida Inta (S553.060)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.192)

The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) came into force on 4 August 2023 and TTPP is required to give effect to this. The NPSIB requires Councils to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity in a way that:

- recognises tangata whenua as kaitiaki, and people and communities as stewards, of indigenous biodiversity; and
- provides for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities, now and into the future

The NPSIB must be given effect to as soon as reasonably practical. Because TTPP was developed prior to the NPSIB, it only partially gives effect to it – in as much has been possible within the constraints of the scope of submissions made to the Plan.<sup>22</sup>

Because of the extremely large land extensive area covered by indigenous vegetation on the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini, detailed comprehensive assessment of each piece of vegetation for its identification of significance has not yet been undertaken completed<sup>23</sup>.

In the Grey District, an evaluation process has been underway for a was undertake a number of years ago., and this has enabled. This identified 37 Significant Natural Areas to be identified within the Grey District. These list of these Significant Natural Areas can be found are included in Schedule Four and they are also shown on the maps.

In the Buller and Westland Districts, where Significant Natural Areas have not yet been mapped, <u>and in Grey District for areas outside of mapped Significant Natural Areas included in Schedule Four<sup>24</sup>, Te Tai o Poutini Plan has general vegetation clearance rules, with an expectation that an assessment against the regionally consistent significance criteria will be undertaken at the time of any resource consent.</u>

<u>It is expected that further areas will be identified and mapped as Significant Natural Areas through a comprehensive process of ecological assessment across each district. This will include the identification of SNAs on public land as required by the NPSIB<sup>25</sup> and that these Significant Natural Areas will be added to the Plan through subsequent Plan change processes.<sup>26</sup></u>

Te Tai o Poutini Plan also encourages integrated management of indigenous biodiversity and supports landowners, local government, Poutini Ngāi Tahu and other biodiversity partners working together on a voluntary basis to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity, including methods such as legal protection and good land management.

There is a considerable network of energy activities and infrastructure, on the West Coast, including within areas of indigenous vegetation and biodiversity. Given the topography and extent of natural ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity on the West Coast practical management solutions are required to ensure maintenance and enhancement of the supply of renewable energy to, and between, communities for the benefit of those communities and the wider environment from the use and development of renewable energy<sup>27</sup>.

The Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter contains objectives, policies, and rules for managing effects on indigenous biodiversity, including for the assessment and identification of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. This chapter contains rules relating to vegetation clearance that apply throughout the West Coast. There are also specific rules that apply within significant natural areas, outstanding natural features and landscapes and the coastal environment.<sup>28</sup>

#### Indigenous vegetation clearance in the Coastal Environment or adjacent to waterbodies

This chapter includes provisions for protection significant indigenous diversity within the coastal environment above mean highwater springs as shown on the Planning maps<sup>29</sup>. This chapter also includes provisions for Wwhere indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within riparian margins next to rivers, lakes and coastal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Inger Perkins (S462.009)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.192)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.192)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Nicholas Johnston (S14.004)

Nicholas Johnston (314.004)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.192)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.247)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.035)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.192

wetlands. refer to the Natural Character and Margins of Waterbodies chapter of the Plan for the Rules around this clearance<sup>30</sup>.

# **Plantation/Commercial Forestry**

Plantation forestry is principally regulated by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Plantation Commercial Forestry) Regulations 2017 (NES-PCF). However the NES-PCF allows that district plans can be more stringent to protect sSignificant nNatural aAreas and significant indigenous biodiversity within the coastal environment as provided for in the NZCPS Policy 11. Where provisions within this chapter are more stringent, they over-rule the requirements of the NES - PCF an advice note to that effect is included within the relevant Rule.

# Strategic Objectives and Policies<sup>32</sup>

The Strategic Objectives <u>and Policies</u> are particularly relevant when assessing matters under the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter. The Natural Environment, <u>Poutini Ngāi Tahu<sup>33</sup> Mineral Extraction and Connections and Resilience Strategic Objectives and policies</u> are particularly relevant.

#### **Wetlands on the West Coast**

The National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Management includes regulations for activities within, and within setbacks from, natural wetlands. These activities are managed by the West Coast Regional Council under the NES for Freshwater regulations. It should be noted that the setbacks for activities within those regulations may be different to those set out in this Plan and may require resource consent to be sought from the regional council<sup>34</sup>. The West Coast Regional Council Land and Water Plan identifies a list of Regionally Significant Wetlands. In accordance with the West Coast Regional Policy Statement, these areas are known as Significant Natural Areas and have specific Rules around their management in the Regional Land and Water Plan. They are also subject to regulation by the West Coast Regional Council under the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Management – which also has regulations around how other wetlands can be managed.

#### Other relevant Te Tai o Poutini Plan provisions<sup>35</sup>

Coastal Environment<sup>36</sup>- the Coastal Environment Chapter contains the objectives, policies and rules for activities within the coastal environment overlay - including buildings and structures and earthworks

Natural Features and Landscapes – the Natural Features and Landscapes Chapter contains provisions in relation to the landscapes and natural features in Schedules Five and Six. Poutini Ngāi Tahu values are part of what makes these areas significant.

Natural Character and Activities Adjacent to Waterbodies - the Natural Character and Margins of Waterbodies contains the objectives, policies and rules relating to activities adjacent to waterbodies including buildings and structures and earthworks.

Activities on the Surface of Water – the Activities on the Surface of Water chapter contains provisions for the surface of waterbodies.

<u>Historic Heritage - the Historic Heritage Chapter contains the provisions in relation to the sites and areas identified in Schedule One.</u>

Notable Trees - the Notable Trees Chapter contains the provisions in relation to the trees identified in Schedule Two. Some trees are listed in this schedule due to their botanical values.

Also where relevant refer to policies in the Energy, Infrastructure and Transport Chapters

# **Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Objectives**

## ECO- 01437

<sup>30</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.333)

<sup>31</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.193)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.249 and S547.250)

<sup>33</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.136)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.195)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.333)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.248)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.064)

To identify, map<sup>38</sup> and protect in partnership with landowners<sup>39</sup> areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna on the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini.

#### ECO - O2

To provide for appropriate subdivision, use and development within areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna where the values of the area can be maintained protected<sup>40</sup> or enhanced.

## **ECO - 03**

To provide for tino rangatiratanga in relation to management of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna where these are located on Poutini Ngāi Tahu and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu<sup>41</sup> land.

# ECO - 04142

To maintain the range and diversity of ecosystems and indigenous species found on the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini.

# **Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Policies**

#### **ECO - P1**

Identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and fauna habitat <u>and include these in Schedule Four through a Plan Change which will be introduced no later than August 2028. The Significant Natural Area identification process will be undertaken as follows:</u>

- 1. The criteria and process set out in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity Appendix 1 will be used to identify and map Significant Natural Area;
- 2. In the Grey District these areas that are already identified in Schedule Four will be confirmed as meeting the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity criteria by the end of 2025;
- 3. Region wide, Regionally Significant Wetlands will be confirmed as meeting the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity criteria by the end of 2025;
- 4. In the <u>Grey, Buller and Westland Districts the assessment and identification of other Significant Natural Area</u> will be undertaken by June 2027.
- 5. <u>Until a site has been assessed as to whether it contains a Significant Natural Area a general indigenous vegetation clearance rule will apply to that site.</u>
- 6. Once a site has been assessed a less restrictive general vegetation clearance rule will apply to other indigenous vegetation on that site that is outside of the Significant Natural Area.
  - i. The criteria set out in Appendix 1 of the West Coast Regional Policy Statement will be used to assess significance;
  - ii. Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and fauna habitat will be identified through the resource consent process until such time as district wide identification and mapping of significant natural areas is undertaken;
  - iii. Buller and Westland district wide assessment, identification and mapping of significant natural areas will be undertaken and completed by June 2027; and
  - iv. Identified areas of significant indigenous vegetation and fauna habitat will be added to Schedule Four through a Plan Change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Suzanne Hills (S443.020), and Clare Backes (S444.003)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Te Tumu Paeroa (S440.022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.066)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Te Tumu Paeroa (S440.022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.064)

#### **ECO - P2**

Allow Provide for activities within areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna where the activity has no more than minor adverse effects on the significant indigenous vegetation or fauna habitat and<sup>43</sup>:

- a. This is for a lawfully established activity <u>and adverse effects are no greater in intensity, scale, or character over time than at the operative date and do not result in the loss of ecosystem representation or degradation of ecological integrity 44; or</u>
- b. It is for-a Poutini Ngāi Tahu Activities<sup>45</sup> cultural purpose; or
- c. This is undertaken on Poutini Ngāi Tahu <del>or Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu</del> <sup>46</sup>land in accordance with an Iwi/Papatipu Rūnanga Management Plan; or
- d. The adverse effects of the activity on the significant indigenous vegetation or fauna habitat are managed in accordance with the effects management hierarchy<sup>47</sup> and the activity has a functional need or operational need<sup>48</sup> to be located in the area, and is for the purpose of:
  - i. Construction or upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure; or
  - ii. Mineral extraction that provides significant national benefit; or
  - iii. Aggregate extraction that provides significant national or regional benefit; or
  - iv. The operation or expansion of any coal mine that was lawfully established before 4 August 2023; except that, after 31 December 2030, this exception applies only to such coal mines that extract coking coal
- e.—The activity has no more than minor adverse effects on the significant indigenous vegetation or fauna habitat.

## **ECO - P3**

Encourage the protection, enhancement and restoration of significant indigenous biodiversity <u>and the protection of significant indigenous fauna habitat<sup>49</sup></u> by:

- a. Allowing Providing for<sup>50</sup> up to 3 additional subdivision rights bonus allotments and reducing minimum allotment sizes when subdividing<sup>51</sup> if an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna within the same property is legally protected as part of the subdivision,
- b. Promoting the creation of connections and ecological corridors between areas of significant indigenous biodiversity;
- c. Promoting the use of eco-sourced species from the relevant ecological district;
- d. Supporting opportunities for Poutini Ngāi Tahu to exercise their cultural rights and responsibilities as mana whenua and kaitiaki in restoring, protecting and enhancing areas of significant indigenous biodiversity; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Clare Backes (S444.006)

<sup>44</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.068)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.139)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Te Tumu Paeroa (S440.023)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Clare Backes (S444.006), Department of Conservation (S602.068), Aggregate and Quarry Association (S521.005), New Zealand Coal & Carbon Limited (S472.014) and Te Mana Ora (S190.317)

WMS Group (S599.052), TiGa Minerals and Metals Limited (S493.048), Birchfield Coal Mines Ltd (S601.035), BRM Developments Limited (S603.024), Birchfield Ross Mining Limited (S604.029), Phoenix Minerals Limited (S606.025), Whyte Gold Limited (S607.024), Peter Langford (S615.042), Karamea Lime Company (S614.042), Koiterangi Lime Co LTD (S577.029, S577.033), Catherine Smart-Simpson (S564.026), KiwiRail Holdings Limited (S442.049), Grey District Council (S608.628), William McLaughlin (S567.170), Steve Croasdale (S516.033), Westpower Limited (S547.253), Geoff Volckman (S563.022), Chris & Jan Coll (S558.088), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.088), Laura Coll McLaughlin (S574.088), Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (S450.083), Silver Fern Farms (S441.016), Bathurst Resources (S491.015), Terra Firma Mining Limited (S537.012), Manawa Energy (S438.077) and Straterra (S536.047)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.202)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Federated Farmers of New Zealand (S524.062)

- e. Supporting initiatives by landowners, community groups and others to protect, restore and maintain areas of significant indigenous biodiversity;
- f. Promoting site and landscape scale biosecurity programmes to manage plant and animal pests; and
- g. Supporting any other measures to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity<sup>52</sup>

## **ECO - P4**

Provide for eco-tourism activities that complement the protection and/or enhancement of areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna and contribute to the vitality and resilience of the economy and wellbeing of the community.

## **ECO - P5**

Enable the use of Māori Purpose Zoned land with areas of indigenous vegetation and indigenous fauna habitat, where land use and subdivision is consistent with tikanga and mātauranga Māori and minimises adverse effects on any significant values of the vegetation or fauna habitat.

#### **ECO - P6**

When assessing consents for subdivision, use and development, avoid activities which will:

- a. Prevent an indigenous species or community being able to persist in their habitats within their natural range in the Ecological District;
- b. Result in a degradation of the threat status, further measurable loss of indigenous cover or disruption to ecological processes, functions or connections in land environments in category one or two of the Threatened Environment Classification at the Ecological District level; and
- c. Result in a reasonably measurable reduction in the local population size or occupancy of Threatened or At Risk (Declining) species of threatened taxa in the Department of Conservation Threat Categories 1 - 3a nationally critical, nationally endangered and nationally vulnerable or in the population size or occupancy of locally endemic species<sup>53</sup>

#### Advice Note:

Information on the Threat Classification status of individual species can be found on the New Zealand Threat Classification System data base at https://nztcs.org.nz<sup>54</sup>

# **ECO - P7**

When assessing resource consents in areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna biodiversity<sup>55</sup>, consider the following matters:

- a. The necessity for the activity to provide for <del>critical</del> regionally significant<sup>56</sup> infrastructure or renewable electricity generation;
- b. The functional needs or operational needs of regionally significant infrastructure, mineral extraction of significant national public benefit or aggregate extraction of significant regional or national benefit 57;
- c. Whether this is for the operation or expansion of a coal mine that meets the requirements of Clause 3.11(1) of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity;
- d. Whether the adverse effects are minor or transitory<sup>58</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.069)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.070)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Federated Farmers of New Zealand (S524.063)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.143), Forest and Bird (S560.207)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Manawa Energy (S438.079)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.477), TiGa Minerals and Metals Limited (\$493.051), Whyte Gold Limited (\$607.027), WMS Group (S599.055), Birchfield Coal Mines Ltd (S601.038), Phoenix Minerals Limited (S606.094), Birchfield 58 Buller District Council (S538.203), Peter Langford (S615.046), Karamea Lime Company (S614.046), Koiterangi Lime Co LTD (S577.037), Catherine Smart-Simpson (S564.030), William McLaughlin (S567.177), Steve

- e. Whether formal protection and/or<sup>59</sup> active management of measures to restore or improve<sup>60</sup> all or part of any area of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat will occur as part of the subdivision, use or development;
- f. The extent to which the proposed activity recognises and provides for Poutini Ngāi Tahu cultural and spiritual values, rights and interests;
- g. The cumulative <u>adverse</u> effects of activities <u>on biodiversity<sup>61</sup></u> within <del>or adjacent to<sup>62</sup></del> any area of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat;
- h. The effects the activity may have on the introduction or spread of exotic weed species and pest animals both terrestrial and aquatic;
- i. The impacts on mahinga kai;
- j. The impact of the activity on the values of any area of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat, or threatened species and how any potential impact could be avoided, remedied or mitigated <u>by applying the effects management hierarchy</u><sup>63</sup>; and
- k. The appropriateness of any biodiversity offsetting or compensation in accordance with Policy 9 to offset any more than minor<sup>64</sup> residual adverse effects that remain after avoiding, remedying and mitigating measures have been applied; and
- I. The extent of net gain achieved by biodiversity offsetting or compensation<sup>65</sup>.

# **ECO - P8**

Maintain indigenous habitats and ecosystems across the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini by:

- a. Maintaining, and where appropriate enhancing or restoring the functioning of ecological corridors, linkages, dunes and indigenous coastal vegetation and wetlands;
- b. Minimising adverse effects on, and <u>providing improving access</u>, <u>where appropriate<sup>66</sup> to areas of indigenous biodiversity which are significant to Poutini Ngāi Tahu;</u>
- c.—Restricting the modification or disturbance of coastal indigenous vegetation, dunes, estuaries and wetlands;<sup>67</sup>
- c.d. Preserving Managing adverse effects on 68 protected wildlife threatened and at-risk species 69; and
- <u>d.e.</u> Encourage and enable site and landscape scale biosecurity programmes to manage plant and animal pests<sup>70</sup>
- <u>e.</u> <u>f Recognising the benefits of Encouraging and enabling active conservation<sup>71</sup> management of indigenous biodiversity, including voluntary animal and plant pest and stock control and/or formal legal protection; <u>and</u></u>

#### **ECO - P9**

Provide for biodiversity offsets and compensation to manage residual adverse effects of an activity where:

- a.-The goal of the biodiversity offsets is no net loss and, preferably, a net gain of biodiversity;
- b.-The conservation outcomes are measurable and positive; and

Croasdale (S516.036), Geoff Volckman (S563.025), Chris & Jan Coll (S558.095), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.095) and Laura Coll McLaughlin (S574.095

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> New Zealand Coal & Carbon Limited (S472.016) and Straterra (S536.049)

<sup>60</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.478)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Frida Inta (S553.070) and Buller Conservation Group (S552.070)

<sup>62</sup> Manawa Energy (S438.079) and Westpower Limited (S547.0502)

<sup>63</sup> Te Mana Ora (\$190.322)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Manawa Energy (S438.079)

<sup>65</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.071)

<sup>66</sup> Te Tumu Paeroa (S440.026)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Buller Conservation Group (\$552.073) and Frida Inta (\$553.073)

<sup>68</sup> WMS Group (S599.056) and TiGa Minerals and Metals Limited (S493.052)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Bathurst Resources (S491.017)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.072), New Zealand Agricultural Aviation Association (S166.014

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.072)

c.—The biodiversity offsets or compensation are in accordance with best practice, including but not limited to NZ Government guidance on biodiversity offsetting.

Provide for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation as part of the effects management hierarchy in accordance with the principles set out in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

## **ECO - P10**

Protect indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:

- a. Avoiding adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity set out in Policy 11(a) of the NZCPS, and 72
- b. Avoiding adverse effects on significant indigenous biodiversity; and
- c. Avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on <u>coastal</u> indigenous vegetation, <u>dunes</u>, <u>estuaries</u>, <u>wetlands<sup>73</sup></u>, habitats and species within the coastal environment <u>in accordance with the effects management hierarchy and Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS<sup>74</sup></u>.

# **Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Rules**

# **Permitted Activities**

#### **ECO - R1**

Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance <u>within the Buller and Westland Districts<sup>75</sup> and</u> outside of the coastal environment

# **Activity Status Permitted**

- 1. It is <u>on a site where an SNA assessment has been undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist in accordance</u> with the criteria in the NPSIB<sup>76</sup> and is outside of:
  - i. a<u>n scheduled identified<sup>77</sup> Significant Natural Area <del>as identified</del> <u>including those</u> in Schedule Four; and</u>
  - ii. An Outstanding Natural Landscape identified in Schedule 5<sup>78</sup>; and<sup>79</sup>
- 2. <u>Within the Riparian Margin of a River, Lake or Coastal Wetland theit is</u> clearance <u>is</u> permitted by <del>the Natural Character and the Margins of Waterbodies</del> Rule <del>NC R1ECO RXXX<sup>80</sup>;</del> or
- 3. <u>It is on a site where no SNA assessment has been undertaken and is a maximum area of 2000m<sup>2</sup> over any continuous 3 year period; or<sup>81</sup></u>
- 4. <u>It on a site where no SNA assessment has been undertaken, or is within an Outstanding Natural Landscape<sup>82</sup> and is a maximum area of 5000m<sup>2</sup> per site over any continuous 3-year period<sup>83</sup>; and it is necessary for one of the following purposes:</u>
  - i. It is the removal of windthrown timber through:
    - a. Use of helicopter recovery methods; or
    - b. Where ground-based recovery is only undertaken from areas adjacent to existing vehicle tracks; or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.074)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Buller Conservation Group (S552.073) and Frida Inta (S553.073)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.074)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.259)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Katherine Gilbert (S473), Department of Conservation (S602.075), Inger Perkins (S462.009), Department of Conservation (S602.016)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.075)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Suzanne Hills (S443.027), Katherine Gilbert (S473.016)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Grey District Council (S608.056)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> This change was a recommendation of the Natural Character of Waterbodies s42A report

<sup>81</sup> Inger Perkins (S462.008), Katherine Gilbert (S473.016), Lynley Hargreaves (S481.020

<sup>82</sup> Suzanne Hills (S443.027), Katherine Gilbert (S473.016), Forest and Bird (S560.487)

<sup>83</sup> Clare Backes (\$444.010), Inger Perkins (\$462.008)

- ii. The maintenance, operation and repair of lawfully established activities<sup>84</sup>: including but not limited to roads, the rail corridor, accessways, tracks, fences, structures, buildings, eritical regionally significant<sup>85</sup> infrastructure, network utilities, renewable electricity generation activities, shelterbelts and woodlots<sup>86</sup> or natural hazard mitigation activities structures;
- iii. For the installation of temporary network <u>or electricity generation<sup>87</sup></u> activities following a regional or local state of emergency declaration <u>or environmental monitoring facilities<sup>88</sup></u>;
- iv. To prevent a serious threat to people, property, structures or services where this is certified by a Council Approved Arboricultural Contractor<sup>89</sup>;
- v.—To ensure the safe and efficient operation (including maintenance and repair) of any formed public road, rail corridor or access;
- vi. For the construction of new fences and traplines associated with Conservation Activities or to exclude stock or pest animals from indigenous vegetation or the margins of waterbodies, or the coast<sup>90</sup>;
- vii. To upgrade or create new public walking or cycling tracks up to 3m in width undertaken by the Council or its approved contractor;
- viii. To comply with section 43 of the Fire and Emergency Act 2017;
- ix. For construction, or operation, repair or upgrade<sup>91</sup> of an above ground or below ground network utility or the national grid where:
  - a. The construction corridor does not exceed 3m in width; and
  - b. All machinery used in construction is cleaned and made free of weed material and seeds prior to entering the site; and
  - c. Rehabilitation of disturbed areas is undertaken following the completion of construction;
- x. It is cultural harvest undertaken by Poutini Ngāi Tahu; or
- xi. It is <u>for Poutini Ngāi Tahu Activities</u> on MPZ Māori Purpose Zoned <u>or Poutini Ngāi Tahu land</u> and undertaken in accordance with an Iwi/Papatipu Rūnanga Management Plan; or
- xii. It is within an area subject to a QEII National Trust Covenant or Ngā Whenua Rahui Kawaneta, a Reserves or Conservation Act covenant or a Heritage covenant under the Heritage New Zealand/Pouhere Taonga Act and the vegetation disturbance is authorised by that legal instrument;
- xiii. <u>It is for the purpose of maintenance of improved pasture for farming and involves the removal or clearance of manuka, kānuka and bracken only that is not part of any wetland and which is under 15 years old<sup>92</sup>; or</u>
- xiv. <u>It is for the establishment of a residential building platform and access to the site that does not exceed 500m² in area per allotment<sup>93</sup>; or</u>
- xv. The clearance is unavoidable in the course of removing pest plants and pest animals in accordance with any regional pest management plan or the Biosecurity Act 1993, or is removal of unwanted organisms declared under the Biosecurity Act 2015.<sup>94</sup>
- 5. Within the Grey District it is clearance outside of an Outstanding Natural Landscape identified in Schedule Five: or
  - i.—It is the removal or clearance of mānuka, kānuka and bracken only that is not part of any wetland and which is under 15 years old, not exceeding 5ha per site over any continuous three year period, subject

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> Aggregate and Quarry Association (S521.007)

<sup>85</sup> Manawa Energy (S438.081)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> Federated Farmers of New Zealand (S524.065)

<sup>87</sup> Manawa Energy (S438.081)

<sup>88</sup> West Coast Regional Council (\$488.003)

<sup>89</sup> Inger Perkins (\$462.008), Katherine Gilbert (\$473.016)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> Frida Inta (S553.075), Katherine Gilbert (S473.016)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> Westpower Limited (\$547.263), Manawa Energy (\$438.081), Chorus NZ Ltd, Spark NZ Trading Ltd, Vodafone NZ Ltd (\$663.044)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> Clare Backes (S444.010), Katherine Gilbert (S473.016), Inger Perkins (S462.008), Scoped Planning and Design Limited (S617.009), New Zealand Agricultural Aviation Association (S166.015)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> Leonie Avery (S507.039), Jared Avery (S508.039), Kyle Avery (S509.039), Avery Bros (S510.039), Bradshaw Farms (S511.039), Paul Avery (S512.039), Brett Avery (S513.039), Neil Mouat (S535.014), Avery Brothers (S609.038), Buller District Council (S538.207)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> Te Tumu Paeroa (S440.027), Horticulture New Zealand (S486.030), Federated Farmers of New Zealand (S524.065)

to provision of notice to the relevant District Council at least 20 working days prior to the proposed clearance including:

- a. Details of the location of the proposed clearance;
- b. Area of the proposed clearance; and
- c. Verification by documentary, photographic or other means that the vegetation is less than 15 years old and not part of any wetland; or
- ii. It is a maximum area of 5000m<sup>2</sup> per site, in total, over any continuous three year period.

#### Advice Notes:

- 1. Where clearance of mānuka, kānuka or bracken is proposed under Standard 5 (<u>xii</u>i) of this rule, if proof that the vegetation is less than 15 years old or that the site is not a wetland, is unavailable, then a resource consent will be required.
- 2. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within the riparian margins of a waterbody refer to these sections of the Plan for the Rules around this clearance.
- 3. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed in or on a site or area of significance to Māori then Rule SASM R4 will also apply.
- 4. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within a wetland this is also subject to rules within the NES Freshwater which is administered by the West Coast Regional Council.
- 5. This rule also applies to <del>plantation</del> <u>commercial</u> forestry activities, where this provision is more stringent than the NES <u>PCF</u> in relation to significant natural areas.

# Activity status where compliance not achieved:

Refer Rule ECO – R1B where standard 1 is not achieved. Refer Rule ECO – RXXX where standard 2 is not achieved. Discretionary Controlled where standard 3 1 or 4 is not achieved.

Refer Natural Character and Margins of Waterbodies Chapter where standard 2 is not achieved.

Within the Grey District refer standard 4 where standard 3 is not achieved.

Within the Buller and Westland Districts Controlled or Restricted Discretionary (depending on activity type) where standard 5 is not achieved.

# **ECO - R1A**

# <u>Indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance Within the Grey District and outside of the coastal</u> environment<sup>95</sup>

#### **Activity Status Permitted**

- 1. It is outside of an identified Significant Natural Area including those in Schedule Four; and 96
- 2. <u>Within the Riparian Margin of a River, Lake or Coastal Wetland the It is clearance is permitted by the Rule ECO RXXX<sup>97</sup>; and</u>
- 3. <u>Within an Outstanding Natural Landscape it is a maximum area of 5000m<sup>2</sup> per site over any continuous 3-year period and is necessary for one of the following purposes:</u>
  - i. It is the removal of windthrown timber through:
    - a. Use of helicopter recovery methods; or
    - b. Where ground based recovery is only undertaken from areas adjacent to existing vehicle tracks; or
  - ii. The maintenance, operation and repair of lawfully established activities: including but not limited to: roads, the rail corridor, accessways, tracks, drains, fences, structures, buildings, regionally significant infrastructure, network utilities, renewable electricity generation activities, shelterbelts, woodlots, and natural hazard mitigation structures; or
  - iii. For the installation of temporary network or electricity generation activities following a regional or local state of emergency declaration or environmental monitoring facilities; or
  - iv. <u>To prevent a serious threat to people, property, structures or services where this is certified by a</u> Council Approved Arboricultural Contractor; or

<sup>95</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.259)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> Grey District Council (S608.056)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> This change was a recommendation of the Natural Character of Waterbodies s42A report

- v. <u>For the construction of new fences and traplines associated with Conservation Activities or to exclude</u> stock or pest animals from indigenous vegetation or the margins of waterbodies, or the coast; or
- vi. <u>To upgrade or create new public walking or cycling tracks up to 3m in width undertaken by the Council or its approved contractor; or</u>
- vii. To comply with section 43 of the Fire and Emergency Act 2017; or
- viii. <u>For construction, operation, repair or upgrade of an above ground or below ground network utility or the national grid where:</u>
  - a. The construction corridor does not exceed 3m in width; and
  - b. All machinery used in construction is cleaned and made free of weed material and seeds prior to entering the site; and
  - c. Rehabilitation of disturbed areas is undertaken following the completion of construction; or
- ix. <u>It is cultural harvest undertaken by Poutini Ngāi Tahu; or</u>
- x. <u>It is for Poutini Ngāi Tahu Activities on MPZ Māori Purpose Zoned land or Poutini Ngāi Tahu Land and undertaken in accordance with an Iwi/Papatipu Rūnanga Management Plan; or </u>
- xi. <u>It is within an area subject to a QEII National Trust Covenant or Ngā Whenua Rahui Kawaneta, a</u>

  <u>Reserves or Conservation Act covenant or a Heritage covenant under the Heritage New</u>

  <u>Zealand/Pouhere Taonga Act and the vegetation disturbance is authorised by that legal instrument; or</u>
- xii. <u>It is for the purpose of maintenance of improved pasture for farming and involves the removal or clearance of manuka, kānuka and bracken only that is not part of any wetland and which is under 15 years old; or</u>
- xiii. <u>It is for the establishment of a residential building platform and access to the site that does not exceed 500m² in area per allotment; or</u>
- xiv. The clearance is unavoidable in the course of removing pest plants and pest animals in accordance with any regional pest management plan or the Biosecurity Act 1993, or is removal of unwanted organisms declared under the Biosecurity Act 2015.

#### Advice Notes:

- 1. Where clearance of mānuka, kānuka or bracken is proposed under Standard 3 (xii) of this rule, if proof that the vegetation is less than 15 years old or that the site is not a wetland, is unavailable, then a resource consent will be required.
- 2. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed in or on a site or area of significance to Māori then Rule SASM R4 will also apply.
- 3. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within a wetland this is also subject to rules within the NES Freshwater which is administered by the West Coast Regional Council.
- 4. This rule also applies to <del>plantation</del> commercial forestry activities, where this provision is more stringent than the NES PF in relation to significant natural areas.

#### **Activity status where compliance not achieved:**

<u>Refer Rule ECO – R1B where standard 1 is not achieved. Refer Rule ECO – RXXX where standard 2 is not achieved.</u> Discretionary where Standard 3 is not achieved.

# **ECO -R1B**

<u>Indigenous Vegetation Clearance within a Significant Natural Area <sup>98</sup></u> Activity Status Permitted

Where this is:

- 1. For the maintenance, operation and repair of established activities and structures including tracks, fences, drains, structures, infrastructure and renewable electricity generation activities where:
  - a. This is at the same or similar scale, character and intensity as at 14 July 2022; and
  - b. The clearance is within 3m of the established activity and is limited to a maximum area of 50m<sup>2</sup> per individual SNA;

<sup>98</sup> Grey District Council (S608.055), Buller District Council (S538.208) and Rebecca Inwood (S422.001)

- 2. <u>Necessary to remove vegetation that endangers human life or existing buildings or structures where this</u> is certified by a Council Approved Arboricultural Contractor;
- 3. For the safe and efficient operation (including maintenance and repair) of any formed public road, rail corridor or access where the removal is within 3m of the formed width of the road, rail corridor or access where this is undertaken by a Road or Rail Controlling Authority;
- 4. To comply with section 43 of the Fire and Emergency Act 2017;
- 5. To enable removal of unwanted organisms declared under the Biosecurity Act 2015.

# Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

#### **ECO - R2**

# **Indigenous Vegetation Clearance in the Coastal Environment**

# **Activity Status Permitted**

- 1. This is for:
  - i. Walking/cycling tracks, roads, farm tracks or fences;
  - ii. Operation, maintenance, repair, upgrading and installation of new network utility infrastructure and renewable electricity generation activities; or
  - iii. Establishment of a building platform and access to a building site in an approved subdivision or where there is no existing residential building on the site
  - 4. <sup>99</sup>The indigenous vegetation clearance does not occur in any area identified as a Significant Natural Area in Schedule Four; and
  - 2. The extent of indigenous vegetation disturbed and/or cleared per site does not exceed an area of 500m² in area per site in any three year period; and
  - 3. The indigenous vegetation clearance does not disturb, damage or destroy nesting areas or habitat of protected threatened or at risk species; and
  - 4. The indigenous vegetation clearance does not occur in an area of land environment of category one or two of the Threatened Environment Classification<sup>100</sup>; and
  - 5. The indigenous vegetation clearance is for the following purposes:
    - i. For the maintenance, operation and repair of established activities and structures including but not limited to<sup>101</sup>: roads, the rail corridor, accessways, tracks, fences, drains<sup>102</sup>, structures, regionally significant infrastructure<sup>103</sup>, network utilities, environmental monitoring facilities<sup>104</sup>, natural hazard mitigation structures<sup>105</sup> and renewable electricity generation activities, where this is at the same or similar scale, character and intensity as at 14 July 2022; or
    - ii. <u>To prevent a serious threat to human life or existing buildings or structures where this is certified by a Council Approved Arboricultural Contractor<sup>106</sup>; or</u>
    - iii. To upgrade public walking or cycling tracks up to 3m in width undertaken by the Council or its approved contractor<sup>107</sup>; or
    - iv. For the construction of new fences and traplines associated with Conservation Activities or to exclude stock or pest animals from indigenous vegetation or the margins of waterbodies, or the coast<sup>108</sup>; or

<sup>99</sup> Grey District Council (S608.057)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> Forest & Bird (S560.489)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Aggregate and Quarry Association (S521.008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> Federated Farmers of New Zealand (S524.066)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> West Coast Regional Council (S488.026)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> West Coast Regional Council (S488.004)

<sup>105</sup> West Coast Regional Council (\$488.006), West Coast Regional Council (\$488.026)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> Lynne Lever & Greg Tinney (S320.004), Tony Schroder (S343.005); Emi Schroder (S369.004);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> Buller Conservation Group (S552.077), Frida Inta (S553.077);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> Lynne Lever & Greg Tinney (S320.004), Tony Schroder (S343.005); Emi Schroder (S369.004);

- v. <u>For the operation, maintenance, repair or upgrade of network utility infrastructure, renewable energy generation or the national grid<sup>109</sup>; or</u>
- vi. For cultural harvest undertaken by Poutini Ngāi Tahu<sup>110</sup>; or
- vii. For Poutini Ngāi Tahu Activities on MPZ Māori Purpose Zoned land or Poutini Ngāi Tahu Land and undertaken in accordance with an Iwi/Papatipu Rūnanga Management Plan<sup>111</sup>; or
- viii. It is for the purpose of maintenance of improved pasture for farming and involves the removal or clearance of manuka, kānuka and bracken only that is not part of any wetland and which is under 15 years old; or<sup>112</sup>
- ix. <u>It is for the establishment of a building platform and access to a building site in an approved</u> subdivision or where there is no existing residential building on the site<sup>113</sup>; or
- x. <u>The clearance is undertaken on a RESZ Residential Zone, COMZ Commercial and Mixed Use Zone, PORTZ Port Zone, or IND Industrial Zone property within the towns of Greymouth, Hokitika or Westport<sup>114</sup></u>

#### **Advice Notes:**

- 1. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within the riparian margins of a waterbody\_refer these sections of the Plan for the Rules around this clearance.
- 2. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed in or on a site or area of significance to Māori then Rule SASM R4 will also apply.
- 3. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within a wetland this is also subject to rules within the NES Freshwater which is administered by the West Coast Regional Council.
- 4. This rule also applies to <del>plantation</del> <u>commercial</u> forestry activities, where this provision is more stringent than the NES <u>PCF</u>.

**Activity status where compliance not achieved**: Restricted Discretionary

## **Controlled Activities**

#### **ECO - R3**

Indigenous vegetation clearance or disturbance where this is in accordance with an approved plan or permit issued under the Forests Act 1949

## **Activity Status Controlled**

- 1. The indigenous vegetation clearance and disturbance is in accordance with an approved Sustainable Forest Management Plan or permit or personal use approval issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries under the Forests Act 1949;
- 2. The indigenous vegetation clearance is outside of <del>any Significant Natural Area identified in Schedule Four and outside of 115</del> the Coastal Environment; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> Transpower New Zealand Limited (S299.076),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.146);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.146)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> Lynne Lever & Greg Tinney (S320.004), Tony Schroder (S343.005); Emi Schroder (S369.004), Federated Farmers of New Zealand (S524.066)

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> Jared Avery (S508.040), Kyle Avery (S509.040), Avery Bros (S510.040), Bradshaw Farms (S511.040), Paul Avery (S512.040), Brett Avery (S513.040), Neil Mouat (S535.015), Laura Coll McLaughlin (S574.103), William McLaughlin (S567.184), Chris & Jan Coll (S558.103), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.103)
 <sup>114</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.0503, S547.0506),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>115</sup> Michael Orchard (S583.002), Peter Langford (S615.052), Karamea Lime Company (S614.052), Koiterangi Lime Co LTD (S577.043), Catherine Smart-Simpson (S564.036), William McLaughlin (S567.182), Steve Croasdale (S516.041), Geoff Volckman (S563.030), Chris & Jan Coll (S558.101), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.101), Laura Coll McLaughlin (S574.101)

3. The indigenous vegetation clearance is not located in an area of land environment of category one or two of the Threatened Environment Classification.

#### Matters of control are:

- a. The matters outlined in Policies ECO P6, ECO P7 and where relevant NFL P6;
- b. The protection of habitats of threatened or at risk species;
- c. The management of impacts on Poutini Ngāi Tahu values as set out in the Tangata Whenua chapter<sup>116</sup>
- d. Compliance with the terms of an approved Sustainable Forest Management Plan or permit or personal use approval issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries under the Forests Act 1949; and
- e. The measures to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effects on any significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.

#### **Advice Note:**

- 1. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within the riparian margins of a waterbody refer to these sections of the Plan for the <u>additional Rules</u> around this clearance.
- 2. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed in or on a site or area of significance to Māori then Rule SASM R4 will also apply.
- 3. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within a wetland this is also subject to rules within the NES Freshwater which is administered by the West Coast Regional Council.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

# <del>/ ECO - R4<sup>117</sup>SUB - R7</del>

# Subdivision of Land to Create Allotments Containing an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity Activity Status: Controlled

#### Where:

- 1.—One new allotment with a minimum lot size of 4,000m<sup>2</sup> is created from the parent title, provided that in the GRUZ General Rural Zone there is a balance area remaining on the original title of at least 4 ha; and
- 2.—The area of significant indigenous biodiversity is legally protected in perpetuity by way of a conservation covenant with an authorised agency and is contained within a single allotment;
- 3.—The subdivision will not result in buildings or access ways being located within the identified area of significant indigenous biodiversity or the need for clearance of significant indigenous vegetation to provide for future access to any site; and
- 4.—Subdivision standards S2-S11 are complied with.

#### **Matters of control are:**

- a.—Subdivision layout, access, design, location and proximity of building platforms to areas of significant indigenous biodiversity;
- b. Management of earthworks, including earthworks for the location of building platforms and access ways;
- c. The protection of habitats of threatened or at risk species; and
- d.-The measures to minimise any adverse effects on:
  - i. The significant indigenous biodiversity;
  - ii. The cultural significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu.

**Advice Note**: This rule does not apply to subdivisions to create allotments for network utilities, access or reserves which are subject to Rule\_SUB - R4.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.147)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.077)

**Activity status where compliance not achieved:** Restricted Discretionary where standard 1 is not complied with. Discretionary where standards 2-4 are not complied with.

# **Restricted Discretionary Activities**

#### **ECO - R5**

# Indigenous vegetation clearance not meeting Permitted or Controlled Activity Standards Activity Status Restricted Discretionary

#### Where:

- 1. This is not within:
  - i. A Significant Natural Area identified in Schedule Four or in an area that has been assessed in accordance with the Significant Natural Area criteria in the NPSIB that meets the criteria to be a Significant Natural Area<sup>118</sup>;
  - ii. An area of land environment of category one or two of the Threatened Environment Classification <u>at</u> the ecological district level<sup>119</sup>;
  - iii. An Outstanding Natural Landscape identified in Schedule Five;
  - iv. An Outstanding Natural Feature identified in Schedule Six;
  - v. An area of High Coastal Natural Character identified in Schedule Seven; or
  - vi. An area of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character identified in Schedule Eight.

#### Discretion is restricted to:

- a. Whether there are other regulations impacting the site that have meant the land is unable to be used for economic rural uses; 120
- b. Constraints imposed by Consideration of the functional need or operational need of network utilities, renewable energy generation and eritical regionally significant infrastructure<sup>121</sup>;
- c. The functional or operational need for the activity to locate within the area where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed to occur<sup>122</sup>
- d. Effects on habitats of any threatened or protected at risk (declining) 123 species;
- e. Effects on the threat status of land environments in category one or two of the Threatened Environments Classification;
- f. Effects on ecological functioning and the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems;
- g. Effects on the intrinsic values of ecosystems;
- h. Effects on recreational values of public land;
- i. Natural hazard management and geotechnical considerations<sup>124</sup>;
- j. Poutini Ngāi Tahu values<sup>125</sup> and
- k. The matters outlined in Policies ECO P6 and ECO P7.

# **Advice Note:**

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.078), Forest and Bird (S560.497)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.271)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.497)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.272), Department of Conservation (S602.078), Buller District Council (S548.254)

WMS Group (S599.060), TiGa Minerals and Metals Limited (S493.056), Birchfield Coal Mines Ltd (S601.042), Birchfield Ross Mining Limited (S604.036), Whyte Gold Limited (S607.030), Phoenix Minerals Limited (S606.093), Birchfield Ross Mining Limited (S604.115) and BRM Developments Limited (S603.069)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.078), Forest and Bird (S560.498)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> Buller District Council (S548.254)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>125</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.149)

- 1.—Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within the riparian margin of a waterbody refer to this section of the Plan for the Rules around this clearance. 126
- 2. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed in or on a site or area of significance to Māori then Rule SASM R4 will also apply.
- 3. Where indigenous vegetation clearance is proposed within a wetland this is also be subject to rules within the NES Freshwater and Regional Land and Water Plan which are administered by the West Coast Regional Council.
- 4. This rule also applies to <del>plantation</del> <u>commercial</u> forestry activities, where this provision is more stringent than the NES PF and the indigenous vegetation clearance is within the coastal environment.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

#### **ECO - R6/SUB - R9**

Subdivision of Land to create Allotments Containing an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity not meeting Rule ECO - R4

# **Activity Status Restricted Discretionary**

#### Where:

- 1. Up to three allotments with a minimum lot size of 4,000m<sup>2</sup> are created from the parent title;
- 2. The area of significant indigenous biodiversity is legally protected in perpetuity by way of a conservation covenant with an authorised agency and is contained within a single allotment;
- 3.—The subdivision will not result in buildings or access ways being located within any Significant Natural Area identified in Schedule Four; and
- 4.—Subdivision standards S2-S11 are complied with.

#### Discretion is restricted to:

- a.—Whether there are other regulations impacting the site that have meant the land is unable to be used for economic rural uses;
- b. The extent to which the subdivision layout, access, allotment size and design and the location of building
  platforms may adversely impact the significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitat of
  indigenous fauna;
- c. Management of earthworks including earthworks for the location of building platforms and access ways;
- d.-The protection of habitats of threatened or at risk species.
- e.—The measures to minimise any adverse effects on:
  - i.-The significant indigenous biodiversity; and
  - ii.—The particular cultural, spiritual and/or heritage values, interests or associations of importance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu as kaitiaki and mana whenua that are associated with the significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna and the potential impact on those values, interests or association.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

#### **Discretionary Activities**

**ECO - R7** 

Indigenous vegetation clearance not meeting ECO - R5

# **Activity Status Discretionary**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> A recommendation of the Natural Character of Waterbodies s42A report is that the indigenous vegetation clearance rule is brought from this chapter into the ECO chapter so this advice note is no longer required as a consequential amendment.

- 1. <u>An ecological assessment undertaken by a suitably qualified and experience ecologist identifies that the clearance will not result in any of the following:</u>
  - a. Loss of ecosystem representation and extent
  - b. Disruption to sequences, mosaics or ecosystem function
  - c. <u>Fragmentation of Significant Natural Areas or the loss of buffers or connections with a Significant Natural Area</u>
  - d. <u>A reduction in the function of the Significant Natural Area as a buffer or connection to important</u> habitats or ecosystems
  - e. <u>A reduction in the population size or occupancy of any threatened or at risk (declining) species</u> that use the Significant Natural Area.

OR

- 2. This is for mineral extraction (other than coal) that provides significant national public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand; or
- 3. This is for the operation or expansion of any coal mine that was lawfully established before 4 August 2023; except that, after 31 December 2030, this exception applies only to such coal mines that extract coking coal; or
- 4. This is for a single residential dwelling on an allotment created before 4 August 2023; or
- 5. This is for a commercial forestry activity and is required for the commercial forestry activity to continue.

#### **Advice Note:**

- 1. Where assessing resource consents for indigenous vegetation clearance under this rule, assessment against the <u>objectives and policies</u> of <del>both</del> the Ecosystems and Biodiversity Chapter and Natural Features and Landscapes Chapters and the <u>MINZ and BCZ Zone objectives and policies</u> will be required <u>where relevant<sup>127</sup></u>.
- 2. This rule also applies to <del>plantation</del> <u>commercial</u> forestry activities, where this provision is more stringent than the NES <u>PC</u>F.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A Non -complying<sup>128</sup>

#### ECO - R8/SUB - R15

Subdivision of Land to Create Allotments Containing an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity not meeting Rule ECO - R6

#### **Activity Status Discretionary**

#### Where:

- 1. The area of significant indigenous biodiversity is legally protected in perpetuity by way of a conservation covenant with an authorised agency and is contained within a single allotment;
- 2.—The subdivision will not result in buildings or accessways being located within any Significant Natural Area identified in Schedule Four; and
- 3.—Subdivision Standards S2 S11 are complied with.

# Activity status where compliance not achieved:

Non-complying

**Non-complying Activities** 

**ECO - R9/SUB - R27** 

Subdivision of Land within an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity not meeting Rule ECO - R8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.274), Bathurst Resources (S491.020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.504

#### **Activity Status Non-complying**

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

ECO - R8A129

<u>Indigenous vegetation clearance not meeting ECO - R7</u>

<u>Activity Status Non – complying.</u>

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

**ECO - R10** 

Planting of Plant Pests identified in a West Coast Regional Pest Management Plan within an area of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat of significant fauna

**Activity Status Non-complying** 

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

**ECO - R11** 

The intentional release or farming of Animal Pests identified in a West Coast Regional Pest Management Plan within an area of significant indigenous vegetation or habitat of significant fauna

**Activity Status Non-complying** 

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

# Subdivision Te Wawaetanga

## **Controlled Activities**

130SUB - R7/ ECO - R4

Subdivision of Land to Create Allotments Containing an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity Where Legal Protection of the Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity is Proposed<sup>131</sup>

**Activity Status: Controlled** 

- 1. One new allotment with a minimum lot size of  $4\underline{1}^{132}$ .000m2 is created from the parent title, provided that in the GRUZ General Rural Zone there is a balance area remaining on the original title of at least 4 ha; and
- 2. An assessment of the site against the significance criteria in the NPSIB is provided with the application and this is undertaken by a suitably qualified or experienced ecologist unless the site has already been assessed as part of a district wide SNA assessment process<sup>133</sup>; and
- 3. The area of significant indigenous biodiversity is legally protected in perpetuity by way of a conservation covenant with an authorised agency <u>or via consent notice on the title<sup>134</sup></u> and is contained within a single allotment; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.504)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.077)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> Chris & Jan Coll (S558.224), William McLaughlin (S567.294), Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566,224) Laura Coll McLaughlin (S574.224)

<sup>132</sup> Davis Ogilvie & Partners Ltd (S465.017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.219, \$560.269)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> Buller District Council (S538.211, S560.260)

- 4. The subdivision will not result in buildings or access ways being located within the identified area of significant indigenous biodiversity or the need for clearance <u>within the area<sup>135</sup></u> of significant indigenous vegetation to provide for <u>a future building site or<sup>136</sup> f</u>uture access to any site; and
- 5. Subdivision standards S2-S11 are complied with.

## Matters of control are:

- a. Subdivision layout, access, design, location and proximity of building platforms to areas of significant indigenous biodiversity;
- b. The provision of infrastructure and services for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, telecommunications and energy<sup>137</sup>
- c. The adequacy of water supply for firefighting 138;
- d. Specification of the location of building sites and access through the use of consent notices; 139
- e. <u>Management of potential reverse sensitivity effects on existing land uses, including network utilities and regionally significant infrastructure<sup>140</sup>, rural activities or significant hazardous facilities<sup>141</sup></u>
- f. Measures to address any natural hazards or geotechnical constraints 142
- g. Management of earthworks, including earthworks for the location of building platforms and access ways;
- h. The protection of habitats of threatened or at-risk species; and
- i. The measures to minimise avoid, remedy or mitigate <sup>143</sup> any adverse effects on:
  - i. The significant indigenous biodiversity;
  - ii. The cultural significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu Values<sup>144</sup>.

**Advice Note**: This rule does not apply to subdivisions to create allotments for network utilities, access or reserves which are subject to either of Rules SUB – R2 or  $^{145}$ SUB - R4.

**Activity status where compliance not achieved:** Restricted Discretionary where standard 1 is not complied with. Discretionary where standards 2-45 are not complied with.

# **Restricted Discretionary Activities**

SUB - R9/ ECO - R6146

Subdivision of Land to create Allotments Containing an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity Where Legal Protection of the Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity is Proposed<sup>147</sup> not meeting Rule SUB — R7

# **Activity Status Restricted Discretionary**

#### Where:

1. Up to three allotments with a minimum lot size of 41000m<sup>2148</sup>, are created from the parent title;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> Buller Conservation Group (S552.117) and Frida Inta (S553.117)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>136</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.219, \$560.269)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.367), Grey District Council (S608.637)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> Grey District Council (S608.637)

<sup>139</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.219, S560.269)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>140</sup> Buller District Council (S538.261)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.367)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>142</sup> Buller District Council (S538.254)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>143</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.219, S560.269)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.148)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.268)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.079)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> Lara Kelly (S421.007), Margaret Montgomery (S446.055)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> Davis Ogilvie & Partners Ltd (S465.018)

- 2. An assessment of the site against the significance criteria in the NPSIB is provided with the application and this is undertaken by a suitably qualified or experienced ecologist where this has not already been undertaken as part of a district wide SNA assessment<sup>149</sup>;
- 3. The area of significant indigenous biodiversity is legally protected in perpetuity by way of a conservation covenant with an authorised agency <u>or via consent notice on the title<sup>150</sup></u> and is contained within a single allotment;
- 4. The subdivision will not result in buildings or access ways being located within any Significant Natural Area identified in Schedule Four <u>or the need for clearance of significant indigenous vegetation to provide for a future building site or future access to any site<sup>151</sup>; and</u>
- 5. Subdivision standards S2-S11 are complied with.

#### Discretion is restricted to:

- a. Whether there are other regulations impacting the site that have meant the land is unable to be used for economic rural uses;
- b. The extent to which the subdivision layout, access, allotment size and design and the location of building platforms may adversely impact the significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitat of indigenous fauna;
- c. The provision of infrastructure and services for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, telecommunications and energy<sup>152</sup>
- d. The adequacy of water supply for firefighting 153
- e. <u>Management of potential reverse sensitivity effects on existing land uses, including network utilities and regionally significant infrastructure<sup>154</sup>, rural activities or significant hazardous facilities<sup>155</sup></u>
- f. Management of earthworks including earthworks for the location of building platforms and access ways;
- g. The protection of habitats of threatened or at risk species.
- h. The measures to minimise avoid, remedy or mitigate 156 any adverse effects on:
  - i. The significant indigenous biodiversity; and
  - ii. The particular cultural, spiritual and/or heritage values, interests or associations of importance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu <u>Values<sup>157</sup> as kaitiaki and mana whenua that are associated with the significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna and the potential impact on those values, interests or association.</u>

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

## **Discretionary Activities**

# SUB - R15 / ECO - R8158

Subdivision of Land to Create Allotments Containing an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity not meeting Rule SUB – R9

# **Activity Status Discretionary**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>149</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.221)

<sup>150</sup> Buller District Council (S538.213)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.221)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> Grey District Council (S608.639) and Westpower (S547.375

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Grey District Council (S608.639)

<sup>154</sup> Buller District Council (S538.256)

<sup>155</sup> Westpower Limited (S547.377)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>156</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.221, S560.270)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> Ngāi Tahu (S620.150)

<sup>158</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.081)

- 1.—The area of significant indigenous biodiversity is legally protected in perpetuity by way of a conservation covenant with an authorised agency and is contained within a single allotment;
- 2.—The subdivision will not result in buildings or accessways being located within any Significant Natural Area identified in Schedule Four; and
- 3. Subdivision Standards S2 S11 are complied with.

# Activity status where compliance not achieved:

Non-complying N/A<sup>159</sup>

**Advice Note:** When assessing resource consent applications under this rule, the policies in the ECO Chapter should also be referred to. 160

**Non-complying Activities** 

**SUB - R27/ECO - R9** 

Subdivision of Land within an Area of Significant Indigenous Biodiversity not meeting Rule ECO - R8
Activity Status Non-complying

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

# **Schedule Four: Significant Natural Areas**

A regionally consistent assessment against the criteria in the NPSIB to identify all areas of significant indigenous biodiversity has not yet been completed<sup>161</sup>. Only previously identified areas within Grey District have been been included in Schedule Four scheduled as Significant Natural Areas and spatially identified on the planning maps as the Significant Natural Area overlay<sup>162</sup> in Te Tai o Poutini Plan.

Within the Buller and Westland District and in the Grey District outside of Schedule Four areas an assessment of significance will be undertaken at the time any resource consents are applied for in relation to the Ecosystems and Biodiversity Rules a district – wide assessment to identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant indigenous fauna habitat will be undertaken, with additional identified areas included in Schedule Four through a future Plan Change.

Significant Natural Areas in the form of Regionally Significant Wetlands are scheduled and identified in the West Coast Regional Land and Water Plan and are included in Schedule Four also 163.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>159</sup> Avery Brothers (S609.041), Neil Mouat (S535.019, S535.026), Leonie Avery (S507.043, S507.053), Jared Avery (S508.043, S508.053), Kyle Avery (S509.043, S509.053), Avery Bros (S510.043, S510.053), Bradshaw Farms (S511.043, S511.053), Paul Avery (S512.043, S512.053), Brett Avery (S513.043, S513.053), Buller District Council (S538.215, S538.267), Peter Langford (S615.080), Karamea Lime Company (S614.080), Koiterangi Lime Co LTD (S577.063), Catherine Smart-Simpson (S564.058), Lara Kelly (S421.009), William McLaughlin (S567.309), Steve Croasdale (S516.056), Geoff Volckman (S563.052), Chris & Jan Coll (S558.240) and Chris J Coll Surveying Limited (S566.240)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>160</sup> Department of Conservation (S602.081)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>161</sup> Forest and Bird (S560.401) and Department of Conservation (S602.237)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>162</sup> Forest and Bird (\$560.214)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>163</sup> Susan and Kevin Hall and Dunn (S218.001 and S218.002) Anne Chapman (S425.004) and Brian Anderson (S576.006)