

DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN

Topic summary:

SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MĀORI

KEY OUTCOMES

- *Leveraging our heritage*



INTRODUCTION

Napier's Māori history is complex and fascinating. The following mana whenua hapū of Te Whanganui-a-Orotū:

- Ngāti Māhū
- Ngāti Tū
- Ngāti Hinepare
- Ngāti Matepū
- Ngāi Tāwhao
- Ngāti Pārau
- Ngāi Te Ruruku

The history and occupation of the lands and waters in and around Napier have resulted in these places holding significant cultural value to mana whenua. Development can impact on these cultural values, and it is therefore important that important sites and areas are identified and managed appropriately by the District Plan. Council must recognise the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their land, special sites, wāhi tūpuna and taonga. Tangata whenua values must be taken into consideration as well as the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?

Council has already commissioned a report from respected historian Patrick Parsons and local archaeologist and heritage specialist Elizabeth Pishief. The report seeks to identify those sites, features and landscapes that hold cultural value, and have events and/or notable figures associated with them. In some cases, there is archaeological evidence to support this occupation or use, but not always, and such evidence is not a requirement for an area to be classified as a site of significance.

The report has been shared with mana whenua, and progress is being made to finalise the extent of sites, as well as some commentary around the ways different sites could be managed differently. The report will be made available for public viewing once the location and extent of the sites of significance is in a form suitable for engagement with landowners.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once the extent of sites and areas of significance have been determined, and progress has been made on the options for the appropriate protection proposed for each site, consultation will take place with affected landowners. The Proposed District Plan will be the formal opportunity for landowners, mana whenua, other stakeholders, and the general public to submit and have their say.

WHY HAVEN'T WĀHI TAONGA/ SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MĀORI BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN?

Although progress has been made on this topic, there is some way to go before it is finalised. As the draft District Plan has no legal effect, and is used for consultation purposes, the exclusion of this chapter does not materially impact on landowners, or on the wider draft District Plan.

WHAT SORT OF RESTRICTIONS COULD BE EXPECTED IN THE NEW DISTRICT PLAN?

The final format and contents of the sites of significance to Māori chapter have not yet been finalised and therefore no decisions have yet been made. However it is fairly typical for rules to include restrictions on the following types of activities for properties containing a site of significance:

- Subdivision;
- Earthworks;
- Erection and/or extension of structures;
- Planting of plantation forestry.

It is likely any activity of this nature would require engagement with mana whenua and a resource consent to go ahead.