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APPX – Coastal Environment: Natural Character

Coastal Environment: Natural Character

Natural Character Evaluation of the Coastal Environment

The Boffa Miskell Limited 2016. Wellington and Hutt City Coastal Study: Natural Character Evaluation of the Wellington City and Hutt City Coastal Environment report prepared by Boffa Miskell Limited for Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council and Hutt City Council (Coastal Natural Character Assessment) evaluates the natural character within the coastal environment consistent with the requirements of the Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement 2013 and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) 2010. The study was jointly commissioned by Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The Coastal Natural Character Assessment of the coastal environment identified nine 'Coastal Terrestrial Areas' within Wellington City. The 'Coastal Terrestrial Areas' essentially categorise the landward part of the coastal environment into sections of coastline. The Coastal Natural Character Assessment evaluates natural character values (abiotic, biotic, and experiential) at the 'Coastal Terrestrial Area' scale, and then identifies and evaluates natural character values (abiotic, biotic, and experiential) of specific components or local areas within the Coastal Terrestrial Areas.

It is the local/component areas with a very high or high natural character rating that are mapped in the District Plan as High Coastal Natural Character Areas, and included in SCHED12.

SCHED12 includes:

a. A brief description of the broader Coastal Terrestrial Areas that each of the High Coastal Natural Character Areas are located within; and

b. High Coastal Natural Character Areas: key values (abiotic, biotic, and experiential) and an overall natural character rating for areas containing Very High and High natural character.

Landscape / Natural Character Assessment

For the purposes of preparing a landscape assessment that considers adverse effects on natural character for a resource consent application where required for an activity, building or structure within an area of the Coastal Environment that has been identified as High Coastal Natural Character Areas or within the Coastal Margin or Riparian Margin.

The following sets out the principles for preparing a landscape assessment that will determine the natural character values and the impact of the activity on those values.

The natural character assessment is required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced landscape architect to include the following as a minimum:

1. Map and rank the abiotic and biotic values on the site;

2. Determine the extent to which the proposal has avoided significant adverse effects on natural character values, and avoided, remedied or mitigation other adverse effects on natural character of the coastal environment. This will include consideration of the following (but not limited to):

    a. Consideration of the proposal's potential adverse effects on the key values as identified in SCHED12 - High Coastal Natural Character Areas, or on the existing nature character of coastal or riparian margins;
    b. Consideration of the proposal's potential adverse effects on the wider coastal environment; and

        Note: The Boffa Miskell Limited 2016. Wellington and Hutt City Coastal Study: Natural Character Evaluation of the Wellington City and Hutt City Coastal Environment report provides helpful guidance on natural character values identified at by Coastal Terrestrial Area which will be relevant to each High Coastal Natural Character Area

    c. Provide a summary of measures proposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the values identified

3. Overall conclusion on whether the activity can be supported following the approach to addressing the natural character values on the site.