

This entire chapter has been notified using the RMA Part One, Schedule 1 process ([P1 Sch1](#)).

Te Ahurei o Ngā Hanga Māori

Natural Character

NATC	Natural Character
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Introduction

The purpose of the Natural Character chapter is to protect the natural character values of rivers and their margins across the district.

Areas of natural character, including coastal margins and riparian margins, within the coastal environment are identified and managed in the Coastal Environment Chapter. For clarity, riparian margins located within the coastal environment are managed in the Coastal Environment chapter. Where works involve rivers or streams that extend into the coastal environment, the Natural Character chapter applies only to the extent of the margin located outside of the Coastal Environment overlay.

~~There are no natural lakes within the Wellington City Council boundaries and wetlands are sufficiently covered by the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (2020).~~

~~Riparian margins are not identified on the ePlan map. Instead, the approach of the plan is to This chapter does not rely on the identification of specific areas but applies a riparian margin setback of 10 metres from the beds of all rivers throughout the district for the application of the rules in this chapter. Within these margins certain activities are restricted. This is to ensure that development within proximity to rivers is sympathetic to the sensitive environment and maintains or enhances the natural character. Activities are still able to be undertaken within these areas however most activities will require resource consent to ensure the effects are assessed and take into account the character and amenity of the area.~~

~~The chapter# also gives effect to Policy 43 of the Regional Policy Statement which requires Council's to have particular regard to maintaining or enhancing the ecological functions of riparian margins when changing/reviewing a District Plan. Activities are still able to be undertaken within these areas however most activities will require resource consent to ensure the effects are assessed and take into account the character and amenity of the area.~~

Relationship to other regulation

The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 manage vegetation removal, earthworks, natural hazards works, infrastructure and public access structures within 10 metres of natural wetlands. As such, Council has decided not to duplicate provisions for these activities and they are not managed through this chapter.

~~There are no natural lakes within the Wellington City Council boundaries and wetlands are sufficiently covered by the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (2020).~~

~~The Greater Wellington Regional Council Proposed Natural Resources Plan (appeals version 2019) manages earthworks within 5 metres of surface water bodies, as such, Council has decided not to duplicate provisions for earthworks within riparian margins in the District Plan and they are not managed through this chapter.~~

Other relevant District Plan provisions

It is important to note that in addition to the provisions in this chapter, a number of other Part 2: District-Wide chapters also contain provisions that may be relevant for your activity, including:

- **Coastal Environment** – Objectives, Policies and Rules relating to coastal margins and riparian margins in the Coastal Environment are located in the Coastal Environment Chapter.
- **Public access** – the Public Access Chapter contains additional policy direction relating to public access within riparian margins.
- **Subdivision** - Policies and Rules relating to Subdivision in riparian margins are located in the Subdivision Chapter.
- **Earthworks** - Policies and Rules relating to Earthworks in riparian margins are located in the Earthworks Chapter.
- **Infrastructure** - Policies and Rules relating to Infrastructure in riparian margins are located in the Infrastructure Chapter.
- **Renewable Electricity Generation** - Policies and Rules relating to renewable electricity generation in riparian margins are located in the Renewable Electricity Generation Chapter.
- **Natural Hazards** – Policies and Rules relating to natural hazards in riparian margins are located in the Natural Hazards Chapter.

Resource consent may therefore be required under rules in this chapter as well as other chapters. Unless specifically stated in a rule or in this chapter, resource consent is required under each relevant rule. The steps to determine the status of an activity are set out in the General Approach chapter.

Objectives

<p>NATC-O1</p>	<p>Natural character</p> <p>The natural characteristics and qualities that contribute to the natural character within riparian margins are preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, and maintained <u>restored, rehabilitated</u> or enhanced where appropriate.</p>
<p>NATC-O2</p>	<p>Customary Harvesting</p> <p>Tangata whenua are able to exercise customary harvesting within riparian margins.</p>

Policies

<p>NATC-P1</p>	<p>Appropriate use and development</p> <p>Provide for use and development within riparian margins where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It protects the natural character and integrates with the landform; 2. It provides for planned natural hazard mitigation works where undertaken by Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council or their nominated agents; 3. It has a functional or operational need to be located within the riparian margin; and 4. It does not limit or prevent public access to, along or adjacent to waterbodies; and 5. <u>The ecological values of the riparian margin will not be adversely affected.</u>
<p>NATC-P2</p>	<p>Restoration and enhancement</p> <p>Provide for restoration and enhancement of natural character within riparian margins where appropriate including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The replanting of riparian margins with indigenous <u>vegetation species</u>; 2. The removal of pest plant and animal species; and 3. The removal of redundant buildings or structures in riparian margins.
<p>NATC-P3</p>	<p>Customary Harvesting</p> <p>Recognise and provide for tangata whenua to exercise customary harvesting within riparian margins in accordance with tikanga Māori and traditional cultural practices.</p>

Rules: Land use activities

<p>NATC-R1</p>	<p>Activities within riparian margins</p>
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All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>a. Compliance is achieved with the rules and standards for activities in the underlying zone.</p>
All Zones	<p>2. Activity status: Restricted Discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>a. Compliance with the requirements of NATC-R1.1.a cannot be <u>is not</u> be achieved. Matters of discretion are:</p> <p>1. The matters in NATC-P1, PA-P1, PA-P2 and PA-P3; and</p> <p>2. Any measures proposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects.</p>
NATC-R2	Restoration and enhancement activities within riparian margins
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p><u>Where:</u></p> <p>a. <u>The works are for the purpose of restoring or maintaining the coastal natural character by:</u></p> <p>i. <u>Planting eco-sourced local indigenous vegetation;</u></p> <p>ii. <u>Carrying out pest animal and pest plant control activities;</u></p> <p>iii. <u>Carrying out activities in accordance with a registered protective covenant under the Reserves Act 1977, Conservation Act 1987 or Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977; or</u></p> <p>iv. <u>Carrying out activities in accordance with a Reserve Management Plan approved under the Reserves Act 1977; or</u></p> <p>b. <u>The works are undertaken by mana whenua in accordance with the principle of kaitiakitanga.</u></p>
<u>All Zones</u>	<p>2. <u>Activity status: Restricted Discretionary</u></p> <p>a. <u>Where compliance with NATC-R2.1 is not achieved.</u></p> <p><u>Matters of Discretion are:</u></p> <p>1. <u>The matters in NATC-P2</u></p>
NATC-R3	Customary harvesting within riparian margins
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p>
Rules: Building and structure activities	
NATC-R4	Construction, addition or alteration of buildings or structures for natural hazard mitigation purposes where carried out within riparian margins by a Regional or Territorial Authority, or an agent on their behalf
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p>
NATC-R5	Construction, addition or alteration of buildings and structures within riparian margins
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Restricted Discretionary</p> <p>Matters of discretion are:</p> <p>1. The matters in NATC-P1, PA-P1, PA-P2 and PA-P3; and</p> <p>2. Any measures proposed to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects.</p>

	This rule does not apply to agricultural fences used to separate livestock from rivers and streams.
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