



Taupō District Plan Changes 2022

Plan Change 38 to the Taupō District Plan Strategic Directions - As Recommended to be Changed by Submissions - Post Hearing Version

September 2023

The following is PC38 as recommended (by the reporting planner) to be changed as a result of submissions received on the plan change.

- Text which is recommended to be added to PC38 is shown using underlined text.
- Text which is recommended to be removed from PC38 is shown using ~~struck through text~~.
- **Highlighted text** are those changes recommended to PC38 after the hearings.

All recommended changes are referenced to the original submission(s) that requested the change.

Chapter 2 Strategic Directions

The following chapter provides an outline of the key strategic and significant resource management matters for the Taupō ~~and~~ District¹. This chapter includes objectives and policies² to guide decision making at a strategic level.

The strategic objectives set the direction for the District Plan and help to implement the Council's community outcomes. They are indicative of the matters which are important to the Taupō District community and reflect the intended outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of the District Plan.

~~The strategic directions will be particularly relevant for any future changes to the Plan and any significant resource consent applications where there is a requirement to consider District Plan policy.~~

~~This chapter should be read as a whole and applied across the district and all zonings unless the provisions relate to a specific zoning or part of the District.~~

~~This chapter does not include rules. Relevant rules can instead be found in the chapters under the District Wide and Area Specific headings of the Plan.~~ For the purposes of preparing, changing, interpreting and implementing the District Plan all other objectives and policies in all other parts of this Plan are to be read and achieved in a manner consistent with these strategic directions.

The policies contained within this chapter are able to be applied directly in the consideration of resource consent applications where there is a requirement to consider District Plan policy.

The key strategic or significant resource management matters ~~for the district,~~³ for the Taupō District are:

1. Tangata Whenua
2. Fresh Water Quality
3. Urban Form and Development
4. Climate Change
5. Nationally and Regionally Significant ~~and Local~~ Infrastructure
6. Natural Values and Landscapes

¹ OS93.2 Contact Energy Limited

² OS93.2 Contact Energy Limited

³ OS93.2 Contact Energy Limited

2.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1 TANGATA WHENUA

The Council, through the District Plan, is required to take into account the Principles of ~~the~~⁴ te Tiriti o Waitangi. This is to be done at all levels of planning and decision making under the Plan.

A comparatively high proportion of the district is Māori freehold or multiple-owned land. There is a strong desire for Māori to return to their ancestral land, with a range of aspirations for changed land use, land development and settlement, whilst exercising kaitiakitanga and protecting sites of cultural significance. The ~~D~~istrict ~~P~~lan has an important role to play in supporting mana whenua in achieving these aspirations.

The Council is also required to, in partnership with mana whenua, recognise and provide for the Māori values in resource management and decision making. These include the important relationship of māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga and to have particular regard to kaitiakitanga.

This is to happen not just through recognition and incorporation of these matters into the plan but also the wider decision making and plan implementation process. These values should not be considered as a separate matter to the wider ~~P~~lan but are expected to be applied throughout all aspects of planning and decision making within the Taupō District.

2.1.2 Objectives

1. The values, rights and interests of Taupō District mana whenua are recognised and protected.
2. Mana whenua are a partner in District Plan planning and decision making.
3. Resource management planning and decision making reflects tikanga, mana whakahaere, kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga, whakapapa, mā~~u~~ta~~u~~ranga⁵ Mā~~h~~āori⁶ and te whanake.
4. Support development on Māori land that meet the needs of those landowners and respects the exercise of kaitiakitanga, self-determination and the relationship of tāngata whenua with their land, water, significant sites and wāhi tapu.
5. Māori are supported to develop their ancestral lands for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing.
6. The principles of te Tiri~~f~~ti⁷ o Waitangi are taken into account through District Plan planning and decision making.

⁴ OS93.3 Contact Energy

⁵ OS89.3 Department of Conservation

⁶ OS93.4 Contact Energy

⁷ OS89.3 Department of Conservation

2.1.3 Policies⁸

1. Recognise and provide for the following matters in land use planning and decision making:

- a. The relationship of Māori/iwi/hapū⁹ and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu (sacred sites), and other taonga (treasures).
- b. mātauranga Māori, kaitiakitanga and tikanga Māori.
- c. The unique role of mana whenua hapū as kaitiaki at place of nga taonga tuku iho.¹⁰
- d. The vision, objectives, values and desired outcomes in Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki¹¹.

2. Provide for development on Māori land that enables tāngata whenua:

- a. to exercise their mana whakahaere and kaitiakitanga ~~act in a way that is~~¹² consistent with their kawa, tikanga and matauranga ~~culture and traditions~~¹³.
- b. to fulfil cultural, economic and social aspirations, rights and interests¹⁴ of those owners.
- ~~c. enhance their ability to exercise kaitiakitanga.~~
- d. strengthens their relationships with land, water, significant sites and wāhi tapu.

~~3. Recognise and provide for the importance of mātauranga Māori, kaitiakitanga and tikanga Māori in land use planning and decision making.~~

~~3~~ 4. Recognise and support opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise their customary responsibilities as mana whenua.

~~5. Recognise and provide for the unique role of mana whenua hapū as kaitiaki at place of nga taonga tuku iho.~~

~~4~~ 6. Recognise the wider existing and historical¹⁵ constraints on the utilisation and development of Māori¹⁶ land as different from general land in freehold title.¹⁷

~~7. Enable development of Māori Land within the provisions of the plan for the purposes of fulfilling the economic and social aspirations of those owners.~~¹⁸

⁸ OS68.1 Mercury, OS93.5

⁹ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹⁰ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹¹ OS115.3 and OS115.15 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹² OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹³ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹⁴ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹⁵ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹⁶ OS93.5 Contact Energy

¹⁷ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

¹⁸ OS68.1 Mercury

~~58~~. Provide opportunities for Māori involvement in decision-making and monitoring of the District Plan, resource consents, designations and heritage orders including in relation to sites of significance to Māori and issues of cultural significance.

~~69~~. Recognise, in decision making, the importance of iwi and or hapū¹⁹ environmental management plans in providing important guidance and direction on the sustainable use and development of the environment and natural resources.

~~710~~. Recognise and support kawa and the incorporation of tikanga and mātauranga Māori ~~principles into~~ the planning, design, development and/or operation of land use activities.²⁰

¹⁹ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

²⁰ OS115.2 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

2.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2 FRESHWATER QUALITY / TE MANA O TE WAI

The health and wellbeing of the lakes and rivers in the district have been degraded both directly and indirectly over recent decades. This degradation includes declining water quality, loss of indigenous biodiversity, loss of access and declining water availability and is the result of activities both on land and in the water bodies themselves. Waterways continue to face increasing demands for use, such as takes for irrigation and drinking water, hydro power generation, and assimilation of discharges from towns, agriculture and other industry; as well as pressures arising from land management practices, land use change and intensification.

Protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment. It protects the mauri of the wai. Te Mana o te Wai is about restoring and preserving the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community.²¹

Holistic and integrated management of land and water resources is critical to reversing declining trends.

The Taupō District Plan has a responsibility under the Resource Management Act and the National Policy for Freshwater Management²² to ~~manage~~ assist with the management of ~~the~~²³ adverse effects on the environment that may arise from subdivision and land use in the District. Managing the adverse effects on waterways resulting from subdivision and land use forms part of that responsibility and there are clear benefits from doing this. The state of the Districts freshwater resources is of significant interest to the Taupō District community, and it is important that positive freshwater outcomes are achieved through the implementation application²⁴ of the Plan.

2.2.2 Objective

1. Subdivision and land use is managed in a way that promotes the positive effects, while avoiding, remedying, or mitigating adverse effects (including cumulative effects) of that development, on the mauri, health and well-being of water bodies, to benefit freshwater ecosystems, and receiving the wider²⁵ environment, and the community, within the Taupō District.²⁶

²¹ OS66.2 Ngāti Tahu- Ngāti Whaoa Runanga Trust, OS115.4 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa and OS91.3 Federated Farmers of New Zealand

²² OS66.2 Ngāti Tahu- Ngāti Whaoa Runanga Trust, OS115.4 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa and OS91.3 Federated Farmers of New Zealand

²³ OS93.6 Contact Energy Limited

²⁴ OS93.6 Contact Energy Limited

²⁵ OS66.2 Ngāti Tahu- Ngāti Whaoa Runanga Trust, OS115.4 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa and OS91.3 Federated Farmers of New Zealand

²⁶ OS66.2 Ngāti Tahu- Ngāti Whaoa Runanga Trust, OS115.4 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa and OS91.3 Federated Farmers of New Zealand

2.2.3 Policy

1. Recognise the importance of waterbodies to tangata whenua and the wider community.
2. Decisions, policy and planning reflect an integrated land management or ki uta ki tai approach to resource management ~~and~~²⁷ landuse planning.
3. Recognise and provide for the vision, objectives, ~~and~~ outcomes and values²⁸ in Te Ara Whanui o Rangitāiki (Pathways of the Rangitāiki) and Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki ~~documents~~²⁹ and to give effect to Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.
4. Recognise the benefits of subdivision, land use and development activities which will directly contribute to the enhancement of the health and wellbeing of waterbodies, freshwater ecosystems and receiving environments ~~fresh water quality~~.³⁰
5. Manage subdivision, use and development of land in a manner consistent with Te Mana o te Wai,³¹ that restores, protects and enhances the mana, mauri, health and wellbeing of the District's waterbodies, freshwater ecosystems and receiving environments.³²
6. Recognise and provide for ~~T~~he relationship of tangata whenua as kaitiaki with waterbodies ~~is respected, enhanced and supported~~.³³

²⁷OS115.5 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

²⁸OS29.5 Waikato Regional Council

²⁹OS115.5 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

³⁰OS66.2 Ngāti Tahu- Ngāti Whaoa Runanga Trust, OS115.4 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa and OS91.3 Federated Farmers of New Zealand

³¹ OS66.2 Ngāti Tahu- Ngāti Whaoa Runanga Trust, OS115.4 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa and OS91.3 Federated Farmers of New Zealand

³² OS66.2 Ngāti Tahu- Ngāti Whaoa Runanga Trust, OS115.4 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa and OS91.3 Federated Farmers of New Zealand

³³ OS115.5 Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tuwharetoa

2.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3 URBAN FORM AND DEVELOPMENT

The Taupō District's diverse and growing population has led to increased demand for housing and demand for new commercial and industrial areas. Urban development also generates further demand for infrastructure services, particularly development infrastructure such as three waters and transportation services. The District Plan provides a framework for ensuring that urban development, subdivision and changes in land use occurs in a planned and efficient manner and is adequately serviced by infrastructure (including Development Infrastructure and Additional Infrastructure³⁴).

The strategic directions for urban development establish the approach for urban form and development within the Plan District³⁵ as identified through the 2018 District wide growth management strategy, Taupō District 2050. This approach reflects an efficient and effective urban form which will develop in a manner that is appropriately serviced by infrastructure and³⁶ reflects the important values and communities within the District.

As well as green field development, the plan provides important guidance about the protection of existing rural and³⁷ urban areas, including Town Centres, to enable them to continue to function effectively in a manner that best serves the wider District.

2.3.2 Objectives

1. The district develops in a cohesive, compact and structured way that:
 - a. contributes to well-functioning and compact urban forms environments³⁸ that provide for connected liveable communities;
 - b. enables greater social and cultural vitality and wellbeing, including through recognising the relationship of tāngata whenua with their culture, traditions, and taonga;
 - c. ensures infrastructure is efficiently and effectively integrated with land use; and
 - d. supports emissions reduction through well planned urban form, design and location; and³⁹
 - e. meets the community's short, medium and long-term housing and business needs;
 - f. protects the productive capacity of rural land.⁴⁰

³⁴ OS57.1 Manawa and OS93.7 and OS93.9 Contact Energy Limited

³⁵ OS29.1 Waikato Regional Council

³⁶ OS29.1 Waikato Regional Council

³⁷ OS22.23 NZ Pork Industry Board, OS91.1 Federated Farmers of New Zealand, OS26.59 Horticulture New Zealand and OS90.1 Angela Bell

³⁸ OS29.2 Waikato Regional Council

³⁹ OS29.12 Waikato Regional Council and OS113.1 Waka Kotahi

⁴⁰ OS22.23 NZ Pork Industry Board, OS91.1 Federated Farmers of New Zealand, OS26.59 Horticulture New Zealand and OS90.1 Angela Bell

2. Subdivision, use and development of land will be consistent with TD2050 2018 to protect the effective functioning of the General Rural Environment,⁴¹ maximise the efficient use of zoned and serviced urban land and is co-ordinated with the provision of cost effective infrastructure.
3. Subdivision, use and development of land which can demonstrate ~~will have demonstrable~~ social and/or cultural benefits to the District's community is recognised and provided for ~~will be supported~~.⁴²
4. Development is serviced by an appropriate level of infrastructure that effectively meets the needs of that development.
5. The Town Centre Environment is strengthened and reinforced as the primary commercial, retail, recreational, cultural and entertainment centres for Taupō District.
6. Subdivision, use and development will not detract from the planned urban built form and effective functioning of the environment which it is located.
7. Subdivision, use and development⁴³ is designed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment and occurs in a sequenced and coherent manner that protects or enhances the important natural, cultural and historic⁴⁴ values of the environment where it is located.

2.3.3 Policies

1. Identify and zone appropriate areas of land for urban purposes to guide the future provision of infrastructure within the Taupō District.
2. Planning and development in urban environments will positively contribute to well-functioning urban environments.
3. Avoid the subdivision, use and development of land that is not ~~be~~ consistent with TD2050 2018. ~~to maximise the efficient use of zoned and serviced urban land and is co-ordinated with the provision of effective infrastructure~~.⁴⁵
4. Avoid fragmented urban⁴⁶ development that results in inefficient ~~ies~~:
 - a. Use of land ~~in~~,
 - b. ~~the~~ provision and functioning of infrastructure, and
 - c. ~~landuse~~ functioning of the **General** Rural Environment⁴⁷.

⁴¹ OS22.23 NZ Pork Industry Board, OS91.1 Federated Farmers of New Zealand, OS26.59 Horticulture New Zealand and OS90.1 Angela Bell

⁴² OS59.7 and OS59.8 Ryman Health Care and OS98.7 and OS98.8 Retirement Villages Association of New Zealand Incorporated

⁴³ OS89.5 Department of Conservation

⁴⁴ OS96.4 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

⁴⁵ OS59.7 and OS59.8 Ryman Health Care and OS98.7 and OS98.8 Retirement Villages Association of New Zealand Incorporated

⁴⁶ OS41.9 Rangatira Block Trusts

⁴⁷ OS22.23 NZ Pork Industry Board, OS91.1 Federated Farmers of New Zealand, OS26.59 Horticulture New Zealand and OS90.1 Angela Bell

5. Require urban subdivision and land development to be efficiently and effectively serviced by infrastructure (including ~~D~~development Infrastructure and ~~A~~additional infrastructure⁴⁸), according to the capacity limitations of that infrastructure.
6. Support and encourage ~~Provide for~~ subdivision, use and development of land that can demonstrate will lead to demonstrable positive beneficial social and/or cultural outcomes for the District's community.⁴⁹
7. Provide for the development of Papakāinga on Māori land to facilitate Māori occupation on their ancestral lands.
8. Maintain strong boundaries to ~~the~~ Town Centres to consolidate and intensify retail, commercial and office activities within ~~the city~~ Town Centres and to protect the planned urban built form and use of the residential environment ~~neighbourhoods~~.⁵⁰
9. Restrict the location and development of retail and commercial activities within non-commercial areas of the district to ensure that Town Centres continue to be the district's pre-eminent retail, commercial and mixed-use centres.
10. Manage subdivision use and development of land to ensure that it will not:
 - a. have an adverse effect on the functioning of the environment where it is located,
 - b. unduly conflict with existing activities on adjoining properties and the surrounding area⁵¹,
 - c. compromise development consistent with the intent and planned urban built form of the environment where it is located
 - ~~d. give rise to reverse sensitivity effects from existing uses~~⁵²
11. Require the design and location of activities to avoid or mitigate natural hazards to an acceptable level of current and future⁵³ risk to life, property and the environment.
12. Do not support subdivision and development which will inappropriately affect ~~heritage~~ sites of Historic Value⁵⁴ or areas of important natural and landscape values.
13. Ensure that new urban subdivision and land development is designed in a manner that enables effective and logical multi modal transportation links to the surrounding, including planned, urban areas.

⁴⁸ OS57.1 Manawa and OS93.7 and OS93.9 Contact Energy Limited

⁴⁹ OS59.7 and OS59.8 Ryman Health Care and OS98.7 and OS98.8 Retirement Villages Association of New Zealand Incorporated

⁵⁰ OS41.10 Rangatira Block Trusts

⁵¹ OS57.1 Manawa and OS57.1 Genesis Energy , OS68.4 Mercury Energy OS93.7 and OS93.9 Contact Energy Limited

⁵² OS59.9 Ryman Health Care and OS98.9 Retirement Villages Association of New Zealand Incorporated

⁵³ OS29.7 Waikato Regional Council

⁵⁴ OS96.6 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

2.4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has been identified as an issue which is important globally and⁵⁵ within the Taupō District. A warming environment, longer and drier droughts and increased intensity of storm events are anticipated. It is important that the District and its communities ~~are able to~~ adapt to the effects of climate change to be resilient and safe.

For environmental management and planning purposes there are two separate, but important aspects of climate change:

1. Effects on climate change – which refers to activities that may lead to an increase in greenhouse gasses and those which may result in a reduction of greenhouse gasses ~~from~~ discharged to⁵⁶ the atmosphere or help to facilitate efforts towards decarbonisation.
2. Effects of climate change – which are the effects caused by climate change such as more frequent flooding, droughts or intensive weather events which can endanger communities, assets and infrastructure.

It is important to consider both of these aspects of climate change to effectively enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety. Supporting positive climate change outcomes and ensuring that the effects of climate change are recognised and provided for will assist in planning for a district which helps avoid,⁵⁷ does not contribute to, and is resilient to, climate change. The Strategic Directions for climate change are consistent with the Government's obligations to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and accords with the target for 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030.

2.4.2 Objective

1. Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will result in positive climate change outcomes.
2. Subdivision, use and development of land in the Taupō District will be resilient to the current and future effects of climate change on the District's current and future communities, including any disproportionate effects on Māori.
3. The Taupō District is well prepared to adapt to the risks and effects from climate change, such as natural hazards.

⁵⁵ OS84.3 Genesis Energy, OS93.10 Contact Energy, OS57.2 Manawa and OS68.5 Mercury

⁵⁶ OS84.3 Genesis Energy, OS93.10 Contact Energy, OS57.2 Manawa and OS68.5 Mercury

⁵⁷ OS84.3 Genesis Energy, OS93.10 Contact Energy, OS57.2 Manawa and OS68.5 Mercury

2.4.3 Policy

1. Land use activities which will result in positive climate change outcomes, including through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonisation, will be supported and encouraged.
2. Land use activities which will unduly accelerate the effects of climate change will be discouraged.
3. Urban and built development must be designed in a manner which considers the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with that development, ~~the and~~ resulting land use and the infrastructure required to service that development⁵⁸.
4. Subdivision use and development of land must demonstrate resilience to the effects of climate change over time.
5. Recognise and provide for renewable electricity generation activities to facilitate decarbonisation of the economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁵⁹

⁵⁸ OS113.3 Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

⁵⁹ OS84.5 Genesis Energy, OS93.12 Contact Energy, OS57.3 Manawa and OS68.7 Mercury

2.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5 ~~SIGNIFICANT AND LOCAL~~ NATIONALY AND REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure, as defined in the Resource Management Act generally encompasses physical services and facilities which enable society to function, such as the three waters network, transport, communications, ~~energy~~ electricity⁶⁰ generation, transmission and distribution networks, and any other network utilities undertaken by network utility operators.

Infrastructure is critical to the social and economic wellbeing of people and communities, ~~including providing for their health and safety,~~ and has national, regional and local benefits, including the economic, cultural and social wellbeing of people and communities and for their health and safety⁶¹. However, inappropriately located or designed land use activities can adversely affect the safe and effective functioning of significant and locally important infrastructure and the natural resources on which they rely on to operate.⁶²

The Taupō District plays an important role in the location and provision of ~~N~~Nationally ~~S~~Significant ~~I~~Infrastructure⁶³. Its central location and natural resources means that Taupō is home to:

- State highways (1, 5, 30, 32, 41, 46⁶⁴ and 47).
- The National Grid electricity transmission network.
- Renewable electricity generation facilities that connect with the National Grid, accounting for up to 27.0%⁶⁵ of New Zealand's total electricity demand.
- Airports used for regular air transport services by aeroplanes.

The Taupō District is also home to Regionally Significant Infrastructure including municipal waste water systems, the telecommunications, radiocommunications⁶⁶ and electricity networks.

In addition to nationally and regionally significant infrastructure, local roads and other infrastructure (including ~~d~~Development Infrastructure and ~~a~~Additional Infrastructure⁶⁷) is vital for the ongoing functioning of the District's urban and rural communities.

⁶⁰ OS84.8 Genesis Energy, OS57.5 Manawa, OS68.10 Mercury Energy and OS93.15 Contact Energy

⁶¹ OS115.33 Te Kotahitanga o Ngati Tuwharetoa

⁶² OS93.13 Contact Energy, OS84.6 Genesis Energy, OS57.5 Manawa and OS68.8 Mercury Energy

⁶³ OS110.2, OS110.6 Transpower New Zealand and OS112.1 Radio New Zealand

⁶⁴ OS29.9 Waikato Regional Council

⁶⁵ OS29.10 Waikato Regional Council

⁶⁶ OS112.1 Radio New Zealand Limited

⁶⁷ OS57.1 Manawa and OS93.7 and OS93.9 Contact Energy Limited

2.5.2 Objectives

1. The wider benefits and strategic importance of ~~h~~Nationally and ~~r~~Regionally ~~s~~Significant ~~i~~nfrastructure⁶⁸ to the District and wider, ~~including the economic, cultural and social wellbeing of people and communities and for their health and safety,~~⁶⁹ are recognised in decision making and land use planning.
2. The local and national benefits of the sustainable development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity transmission and renewable electricity generation resources and activities are recognised and ~~encouraged~~ provided for⁷⁰.
3. Land use in the District will not adversely affect the capacity and the safe and effective functioning of ~~h~~Nationally and ~~r~~Regionally ~~s~~Significant Infrastructure⁷¹ and local infrastructure required to service existing and future communities.
4. Local and national transport infrastructure located in the Taupō District operates in a safe and effective manner.

2.5.3 Policy

1. Recognise and provide for the national, regional and local benefits of renewable ~~energy~~ electricity⁷² generation activities and resources, and transmission activities, in relation to climate change, security of supply, and social, and economic wellbeing of people and communities and for their health and safety.
2. Recognise and provide for the functional and operational needs associated with the use and development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of ~~h~~Nationally and ~~r~~Regionally ~~s~~Significant ~~i~~nfrastructure.⁷³
3. Subdivision, land use and development will not adversely affect (including reverse sensitivity effects) the effective and safe functioning of infrastructure.
4. Planning and development of infrastructure will consider the needs and the wellbeing of current and future communities.
5. Recognise that infrastructure can have important environmental, economic, cultural and social effects.

⁶⁸ OS110.2, OS110.6 Transpower New Zealand and OS112.1 Radio New Zealand

⁶⁹ OS115.33 Te Kotahitanga o Ngati Tuwharetoa

⁷⁰ OS84.7 Genesis Energy Limited, OS93.14 Contact Energy, OS68.9 Mercury Energy

⁷¹ OS110.2, OS110.6 Transpower New Zealand and OS112.1 Radio New Zealand

⁷² OS84.8 Genesis Energy, OS57.5 Manawa, OS68.10 Mercury Energy and OS93.15 Contact Energy

⁷³ OS110.2, OS110.6 Transpower New Zealand and OS112.1 Radio New Zealand

2.6 STRATEGIC DIRECTION 6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT VALUES

The Taupō District is characterised by important landscapes and natural areas. These areas are a strong part of the identity to the district and are valued by landowners,⁷⁴ the local communities, including mana whenua, ~~and~~ Some of these areas also hold importance at a national level⁷⁵. As well as being an important part of the District's identity these areas also have a range of important social, cultural and environmental (including intrinsic) values.

The effects of human activities such as built development, vegetation clearance and land development can significantly alter the character of the environment resulting in the loss of these areas and their values. While parts of the District have been significantly modified by human activity, vast areas of the natural landscape remain.

These areas are on a range of public (reserve, forest and national parks) and private land. There is also a high proportion of these areas on Māori land throughout the District which can impact the ability of Māori landowners in undertaking development on their ancestral lands.⁷⁶

2.6.2 Objectives

1. Recognise the importance of the District's natural values and landscapes and their significance to the Taupō District's communities and identity.
2. The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna from the adverse effects of inappropriate development.
3. Activities which will lead to the enhancement of indigenous biodiversity values will be recognised and provided for.
4. Recognition of the extent of indigenous vegetation and habitat under on Māori land tenure⁷⁷, and the need to provide for the important relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands and wāhi tapu.
5. The protection of outstanding landscape areas from inappropriate subdivision,⁷⁸ land use and development which may adversely affect their landscape attributes.
6. Recognition of the relationship of tangata whenua with the natural values of their ancestral lands, waterbodies, sites, cultural landscapes, and other natural taonga of significance.
7. The natural character of riparian margins are preserved, and enhanced where appropriate, and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

⁷⁴ OS63.4 Debs Morrison and OS65.4 Richard Thompson

⁷⁵ OS58.7 Pukawa D2 Trust

⁷⁶ OS93.16 Contact Energy Limited

⁷⁷ OS84.9 Genesis Energy OS93.17 Contact Energy

⁷⁸ OS89.12 Department of Conservation

2.6.3 Policy

1. Protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna from subdivision⁷⁹, land use and development activities that will have more than minor effects on the ecological values and processes important to those areas.
2. Support and facilitate those activities which will lead to the long term protection and or enhancement of indigenous biodiversity **values in both urban and non-urban areas**.
3. Recognise and provide for tāngata whenua in their role as kaitiaki of the natural values on their lands and the wider district.
4. Activities must recognise and maintain the attributes of identified outstanding natural features and landscapes and not have any more than minor adverse effects on them.
5. Encourage the protection, enhancement and restoration of natural and landscape value areas, including by supporting opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise their customary responsibilities as mana whenua and kaitiaki in restoring, protecting and enhancing these areas.
6. Recognise the contribution made by landowners to the protection and enhancement of areas of natural values and landscapes.

⁷⁹ OS89.15 Department of Conservation

10 Definitions

Additional Infrastructure - has the same meaning as in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020⁸⁰

Development Infrastructure - has the same meaning as in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020⁸¹

Nationally Significant Infrastructure - has the same meaning as in the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020⁸²

Regionally Significant Infrastructure - ~~has the same meaning as in the relevant Regional Policy Statement~~ infrastructure of regional and/or national significance and includes:

- a. pipelines for the distribution or transmission of natural or manufactured gas or petroleum;
- b. infrastructure required to permit telecommunication as defined in the Telecommunications Act 2001;
- c. radio apparatus as defined in section 2(1) of the Radio Communications Act 1989;
- d. the national electricity grid, as defined by the Electricity Industry Act 2010;
- e. a network (as defined in the Electricity Industry Act 2010);
- f. infrastructure for the generation and/or conveyance of electricity that is fed into the national grid or a network (as defined in the Electricity Industry Act 2010);
- g. the regional strategic transport network as defined in a Regional Land Transport Plan or State Highways as defined in the National State Highway Classification System;
- h. lifeline utilities, as defined in the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002, and their associated essential infrastructure and services;
- i. Local authority water supply network and water treatment plants;
- j. Local authority wastewater and stormwater networks, systems and wastewater treatment plants;
- k. Flood and drainage infrastructure managed by the Regional Council;
- l. Taupō Airport
- m. Taupō Public Hospital⁸³

⁸⁰ OS57.1 Manawa and OS93.7 and OS93.9 Contact Energy Limited

⁸¹ OS57.1 Manawa and OS93.7 and OS93.9 Contact Energy Limited

⁸² OS110.6 Transpower New Zealand

⁸³ OS110.2 Transpower New Zealand and OS112.1 Radio New Zealand

National Grid - has the same meaning as provided in the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ OS110.1 Transpower New Zealand