

Appendix F – Criteria for assessing matters of national importance in the Bay of Plenty region

For the avoidance of doubt the criteria sets that apply will only be triggered by the relevant policies and methods listed under each criteria set heading.

Set 1 Natural character

Policies CE 2B, CE 8B, CE 10B, EI 5B, MN 1B, MN 2B, MN 3B, MN 7B and MN 8B

Methods 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 and 70

Natural systems expressed

- 1.1 The qualities and patterns of the landscape express integrated physical processes and ecological systems and promote and support the healthy functioning of the natural environment.

Landform

- 1.2 Landform retains its natural form and qualities.

Land cover

- 1.3 Land cover is unmodified from its natural state or is regenerating and contributes to a high degree of naturalness or, where managed, retains the qualities of naturalness.

Waterscape

- 1.4 Seascapes, harbours, estuaries, wetlands, geothermal surface features, lake or river water bodies are natural without obvious human structures or intervention.

Fauna

- 1.5 Habitat for fauna is natural and functions without compromise by human influence or modification.

Set 2 Natural features and landscapes

Policies EI 5B, GR 1A, GR 4A, IW 2B, IW 5B, MN 1B, MN 3B, MN 7B and MN 8B

Methods 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 and 70

Natural science factors

Representativeness

- 2.1 Natural features and landscapes are clearly and recognisably characteristic of the area, district or region. The key components of the landscape will be present in a way that more generally defines the character of the place, but which distils this character in essence.
- 2.2 Natural features in a good state of preservation are representative and characteristic of the natural geological processes and diversity of the region.

Research and Education

- 2.3 Natural features and landscapes are exceptionally valued for the contribution they make to research and education.



Rarity

- 2.4 Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.

Aesthetic values*Coherence*

- 2.5 The patterns of land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform of the area and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.

Vividness

- 2.6 Natural features and landscapes are widely recognised across the community and beyond the local area and remain clearly in the memory; striking landscapes are symbolic of an area due to their recognisable and memorable qualities.

Naturalness

- 2.7 Natural features and landscapes appear largely uncompromised by modification and appear to comprise natural systems that are functional and healthy.

Intactness

- 2.8 Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation; visually intact and highly aesthetic natural landscapes.

Expressiveness (Legibility)

- 2.9 Natural features and landscapes clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them. Exceptional examples of natural process in landscape exemplify the particular processes that formed that landscape.

Transient values

- 2.10 The consistent occurrence of transient features (for example the seasonal flowering of pohutukawa) contributes to the character, qualities and values of the landscape; landscapes are widely recognised for their transient features and the contribution these make to the landscape.

Shared and recognised values

- 2.11 Natural features and landscapes are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community for their contribution to a sense of place leading to a strong community association with or high public esteem for the place.

Māori values

- 2.12 Natural features and landscapes are clearly special or widely known and influenced by their connection to the Māori values inherent in the place.

(Refer also to set 4 - Māori Culture and Traditions criteria).

Historical associations

- 2.13 Natural features and landscapes are clearly and widely known and influenced by their connection to the historical values inherent in the place.

(Refer also to set 5 - Historic heritage criteria).



Set 3 Indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna

Policies CE 9B, EI 5B, GR 1A, GR 4A, IW 2B, IW 5B, MN 1B, MN 2B, MN 3B, MN 7B and MN 8B

Methods 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 and 70

Representativeness

- 3.1 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contains associations of indigenous species representative, typical or characteristic of the natural diversity of the region or any relevant ecological districts.

Rarity or distinctive features

- 3.2 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna supports an indigenous species or associations of indigenous species threatened or rare nationally, regionally or within the relevant ecological district.
- 3.3 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna can contribute to the maintenance or recovery of a species threatened or rare nationally, regionally or within the relevant ecological district.
- 3.4 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is distinctive, of restricted occurrence, or at the limits of its natural distribution range, or has developed as a result of factors such as natural geothermal activity, historical cultural practices, altitude, water table, or soil type.
- 3.5 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is one of the largest remaining examples of its type within the region or any relevant ecological district.
- 3.6 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is significantly reduced in area and is degraded but retains key natural ecosystem functions (for example hydrology) and has a high potential for restoration.

Diversity and pattern

- 3.7 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contains a high diversity of indigenous ecosystem or habitat types, or changes in species composition, reflecting the existence of diverse natural features (for example landforms, soil types or hydrology), or communities along an ecological gradient.

Naturalness

- 3.8 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is in a natural state or healthy condition, or is in an original condition.

Ecological context

- 3.9 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contributes to the ecological viability of adjoining natural areas and biological communities, by providing or contributing to an important ecological linkage or network, or providing a buffer from adjacent land uses.
- 3.10 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna provides habitat for indigenous species at key stages of their life cycle.

Viability and sustainability

- 3.11 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is of sufficient size and compact shape and has the capacity to maintain its ecological viability over time.
- 3.12 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna supports intact habitats and healthy functioning ecosystems.



- 3.13 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is of sufficient size and compact shape to resist changes initiated by external agents.

Māori

- 3.14 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna contributes to the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

(Refer also to set 4 - Māori Culture and Traditions criteria).

Historical

- 3.15 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is known and valued for its connection to the history of the place.

Community association

- 3.16 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is known and valued by the immediate and wider community for its contribution to a sense of place leading to community association with or public esteem for the place, or due to its value for recreation or education.

- 3.17 Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is valued for the contribution it is making to research into the Bay of Plenty's or New Zealand's ecosystems.

Set 4 Māori culture and traditions⁸

Policies EI 5B, IW 2B, IW 5B, MN 1B, MN 3B, MN 7B and MN 8B

Methods 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 and 70

Mauri

- 4.1 Ko te mauri me te mana o te waahi, te taonga rānei, e ngākaunuitia ana e te Māori.

The mauri (for example life force and life supporting capacity) and mana (for example integrity) of the place or resource holds special significance to Māori.

Waahi Tapu

- 4.2 Ko tērā waahi, taonga rānei he waahi tapu, arā, he tino whakahirahira ki ngā tikanga Māori, ki ngā puri mahara, me ngā wairua ā te Māori.

The place or resource is a waahi tapu of special, cultural, historic and or spiritual importance to Māori.

Kōrero Tūturu/Historical

- 4.3 Ko tērā waahi e ngākaunuitia ana e te Māori ki roto i ōna kōrero tūturu.

The place has special historical and cultural significance to Māori.

Rawa Tūturu/Customary resources

- 4.4 He waahi tērā e kawea ai ngā rawa tūturu ā te Māori.

The place provides important customary resources for Māori.

⁸ In the event of any conflict in meaning between the Māori and the English versions of the Māori culture and traditions criteria, the Māori version shall prevail.

Hiahiatanga Tuturu/Customary needs

4.5 He waahi tērā e eke ai ngā hiahia hinengaro tuturu a te Māori.

The place or resource is a venue or repository for Māori cultural and spiritual values.

Whakaaronui o te Wa/Contemporary Esteem

4.6 He waahi rongonui tērā ki ngā Māori, arā, he whakāhuru, he whakawaihanga, me te tuku mātauranga.

The place has special amenity, architectural or educational significance to Māori.

Set 5 Historic heritage

Policies EI 5B, IW 2B, IW 5B, MN 1B, MN 3B, MN 7B and MN 8B

Methods 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 and 70

Generic Values (criteria to be applied in all assessments of historic heritage:***Period***

5.1 The development sequence of a place or area, the likely age, duration of use or chronology of a place or area.

Rarity or Special Features

5.2 The unique, uncommon or rare features of a place or area. This may be as a result of the cultural context of the place or area. This may include the technical interest of all or any part of the place or area. The previous existence and nature of lost or obliterated components or aspects. The function of the place and its parts and the relationship of the place and its parts with its setting.

Integrity

5.3 The condition, quality and state of original features of a place or area. Comparison with other examples of its class. The quality of any restoration, addition or modification of the place or area.

Representativeness

5.4 The characteristics and relationship of the place or area to other places or areas in its class, for example in respect of design, type, features, technology, use, activity, location or origin.

Context or Group Value

5.5 Association with other places, areas or elements of its context. Association with and illustration of broad patterns of history. Places or areas in which evidence of the association or event survives in situ, or in which the settings are substantially intact.

Diversity (Form and Features)

5.6 The characteristics, diversity and pattern of a place or area. The cultural influences which have affected the form and components of the place or area. Form, scale, colour, texture and materials. The historical content of the place or area with particular reference to the ways in which it has been influenced by historical forces or has itself influenced the course of history.

Fragility or Vulnerability

5.7 The components, form and structure of the place or area and the effect of this on its survival. Its vulnerability to deterioration or destruction. The degree to which it is threatened and its context in terms of protection and services.



In addition to the above generic values, any assessment of historic heritage qualities must consider the following:

Archaeological Qualities

Information

- 5.8 The potential of the place or area to define or expand knowledge of earlier human occupation, activities or events through investigation using archaeological methods.

Research

- 5.9 The potential of the place or area to provide evidence to address archaeological research questions.

Recognition or Protection

- 5.10 The place or area is registered by Heritage New Zealand for its archaeological values, or is recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme, or is an 'archaeological site' as defined by the Historic Places Act 1993.

Architectural Qualities

Style or Type

- 5.11 The style of the building or structure is representative of a significant development period in the region or the nation. The building or structure is associated with a significant activity (for example institutional, industrial, commercial or transportation).

Design

- 5.12 The building or structure has distinctive or special attributes of an aesthetic or functional nature. These may include massing, proportion, materials, detail, fenestration, ornamentation, artwork, functional layout, landmark status or symbolic value.

Construction

- 5.13 The building or structure uses unique or uncommon building materials, or demonstrates an innovative method of construction, or is an early example of the use of a particular building technique.

Designer or Builder

- 5.14 The building or structure's architect, designer, engineer or builder was a notable practitioner or made a significant contribution to the region or nation.

Cultural Qualities

Sentiment

- 5.15 The place or area is important as a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment.

Identity

- 5.16 The place or area is a context for community identity or sense of place, and provides evidence of cultural or historical continuity.

Amenity or Education

- 5.17 The place or area has symbolic or commemorative significance to people who use or have used it, or to the descendants of such people. The interpretative capacity of the place or area and its potential to increase understanding of past lifestyles or events.

Historic Qualities*Associative Value*

- 5.18 The place or area has a direct association with, or relationship to, a person, group, institution, event or activity that is of historical significance to Bay of Plenty or the nation.

Historical Pattern

- 5.19 The place or area is associated with broad patterns of local or national history, including development and settlement patterns, early or important transportation routes, social or economic trends and activities.

Scientific Qualities*Information*

- 5.20 The potential for the place or area to contribute information about an historic figure, event, phase or activity.

Potential – Scientific Research

- 5.21 The degree to which the place or area may contribute further information and the importance of the data involved, its rarity, quality or representativeness.

Technological Qualities*Technical Achievement*

- 5.22 The place or area shows a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular time or is associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

Set 6 Public access

Policies EI 5B, IW 2B, IW 5B, MN 1B, MN 3B, MN 5B, MN 6B, MN 7B and MN 8B

Methods 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 and 70

Connectivity

- 6.1 Whether public access would provide a connection between existing or likely future areas of public access. Whether the form of access is compatible in nature and scale with that existing or likely future access.

Public enjoyment

- 6.2 Whether public access would provide access to sites, places or features of public interest and enjoyment. Whether there is, or is in the foreseeable future likely to be, demand in the vicinity for public access.

Proportionality

- 6.3 Whether public access would be proportional in nature and scale to likely level of use.



Practicality

6.4 Whether public access is practical given topography and hydrological characteristics. What would be required to make public access practical and whether that would have a positive or negative impact on the environment.

Co-benefits

6.5 Whether the reserving of land for public access provides other benefits for the environment including conservation, natural hazard mitigation and/or recreation.

Environmental risk

6.6 Whether scale and nature of public access would place the environment at risk in terms of human disturbance to sensitive ecosystems, sites of cultural significance, accelerated erosion and similar matters.

Safety

6.7 Whether providing access would place people at unreasonable risk given topography and associated hazards and/or adjacent land uses.

Security

6.8 Whether providing public access would place private property or public infrastructure legitimately located in or adjacent to coastal or inland waters at a security risk in terms of possible damage

Table 18 Set 7 – Geothermal features

Policy GR 9B

Methods 2, 3 and 22

Appendix F Set 7 Geothermal Features	
<p><i>For the avoidance of doubt the criteria sets that apply will only be triggered by the relevant policies and methods listed under each criteria set heading. The criteria in each of the criteria sets below are not tests or standards which, if any one or more are met, will necessarily result in a conclusion that the place, feature or landscape (as the case may be) is significant or a matter of national importance. Instead, the criteria are factors to be considered and evaluated in order to reach an overall judgement as to the significance of any given feature(s).</i></p> <p><i>NB Set 5 criteria 5.1 to 5.7 do not apply to the assessment of the significance of geothermal features, as Set 7 criteria apply to such assessments.</i></p>	
<p>For Geothermal geological features: (See Appendix A (Definitions) - Annex A, Table 15 and Table 16, Parts A and B)</p>	<p>For geothermal vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna (See Appendix A (Definitions) - Annex A, Table 15 and Table 16, Part C)</p>
<p>Natural science factors</p>	
<p><i>Representativeness</i> 7.1 The extent to which the natural feature is a good example of a geothermal feature type or group of features in close association, and/or the processes that formed it/them, in the Taupō Volcanic Zone.</p>	<p><i>Representativeness</i> 7.12 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area contributes to the full range of associations of indigenous species representative, typical or characteristic of the natural biodiversity of the geothermal resource of the Taupo Volcanic Zone.</p>

<p><i>Diversity and pattern</i></p> <p>7.2 The extent to which a group of associated features contain a wide variety of geothermal features, reflecting the diversity of geothermal feature types in the Taupō Volcanic Zone or present a distinctive and unusual juxtaposition of features (e.g. along a physical, chemical or hydrological gradient).</p>	<p><i>Diversity and pattern</i></p> <p>7.13 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area contains a high diversity of indigenous ecosystem or habitat types, or changes in species composition, reflecting the existence of diverse natural features (for example landforms, soil types or hydrology), or communities along an ecological gradient (e.g. a soil temperature gradient).</p>
Natural science factors	
<p><i>Rarity</i></p> <p>7.3 The extent to which the feature is unique or rare in the context of the Taupō Volcanic Zone.</p>	<p><i>Rarity</i></p> <p>7.14 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area supports an indigenous species or associations of indigenous species threatened or rare nationally or regionally. NB the relative significance would be judged on the number of such species present and their threat status.</p>
<p><i>Distinctiveness</i></p> <p>7.4 The extent to which a feature in a geothermal area is one of the largest remaining examples of its type in the Taupō Volcanic Zone, while exhibiting high thermal output.</p>	<p><i>Distinctiveness</i></p> <p>7.15 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area is one of the largest remaining examples of its type within the Taupo Volcanic Zone.</p>
	<p>7.16 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area is significantly reduced in area and is degraded but retains key natural ecosystem functions (for example hydrology).</p>
	<p><i>Ecological context</i></p> <p>7.17 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area contributes to the ecological viability of adjoining significant natural areas and biological communities, by providing or contributing to an important ecological linkage or network, or providing a buffer from adjacent land uses.</p> <p>7.18 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area provides habitat for threatened indigenous species at key stages of their life cycle.</p>
<p><i>Resilience</i></p> <p>7.5 The extent to which the feature is resilient to natural changes.</p>	<p><i>Viability and sustainability</i></p> <p>7.19 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area is of sufficient size and compact shape and that it has the capacity to maintain its ecological viability over time, to adapt to natural changes and to resist changes initiated by external agents.</p> <p>7.20 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area supports intact habitats and healthy functioning ecosystems.</p>
<p><i>Vulnerability</i></p> <p>7.6 The extent to which the feature is vulnerable to fluid extraction.</p>	
Aesthetic values	
<p><i>Memorability</i></p> <p>7.7 The extent to which the geothermal feature(s) is striking or visually spectacular due to its recognisable and memorable qualities.</p>	
<p><i>Naturalness</i></p> <p>7.8 The extent to which the geothermal feature(s) appears largely uncompromised and is an intact natural system, free from human modification, intervention or manipulation.</p>	<p><i>Naturalness</i></p> <p>7.21 The extent to which indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna on a geothermal area is in a natural state or healthy condition, or is in an original condition.</p>



<p><i>Transient values</i></p> <p>7.9 The extent to which transitory natural changes in the appearance of the geothermal feature contribute to its natural science values or aesthetic appeal.</p>	
Associative values	
<p><i>Shared and recognised values</i></p> <p>7.10 The extent to which it is a geothermal feature that is valued for its historical, recreational, educational or scientific values.</p>	<p><i>Shared and recognised values</i></p> <p>7.22 The extent to which the geothermal vegetation or habitat is valued for its historical, recreational, educational or scientific values.</p>
<p><i>Māori values</i></p> <p>7.11 The extent to which a geothermal feature(s) is clearly special or widely valued by Tangata Whenua by reason of traditional values (including consideration of the criteria in Set 4 Māori culture and traditions) and/or contemporary association values.</p>	<p><i>Māori values</i></p> <p>7.23 The extent to which geothermal vegetation or habitat is clearly special or widely valued by Tangata Whenua by reason of traditional values (including consideration of the criteria in Set 4 Māori culture and traditions) and/or contemporary association values.</p>