

Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

Topic Summary and Frequently asked questions

What is the purpose of this chapter?

The Gore District contains naturally rare ecosystems that support significant biodiversity including threatened and endangered plant, lizard and bird species. This chapter identifies the types of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna (SNA's) to be protected and the types of indigenous biological diversity that need to be maintained. Rules are proposed to limit indigenous vegetation clearance and associated land disturbance as well as avoiding the planting of exotic weed species and the intentional release or farming of animal pests.

What are significant natural areas and why are they important?

The Resource Management Act (RMA) lists the protection of natural areas of significant natural indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna (SNA's) as a matter of national importance. The Southland Regional Policy Statement 2017 and the National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPSIB) both contain criteria for identifying SNA's. It is the regional and district Council's function to maintain biological diversity in accordance with RMA ss30 and 31.

The Gore District Plan Efficiency and Effectiveness Review 2022 identified that there has been a reduction in native vegetation which would suggest further protection is needed for biodiversity within the district.

What areas of significant indigenous vegetation does the Proposed Gore Plan propose?

There are two proposed distinct areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna (SNA's) already identified in the plan:

1. Waterfall Range
2. The Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve

The Proposed District Plan also defines SNA's to include areas that meet the criteria from the NPSIB relating to representativeness, diversity and patterns, rarity and distinctiveness, and ecological context.

The Council will work with key stakeholders such as affected landowners, Environment Southland, Federated Farmers, and Forest and Bird to map additional areas however in the meantime any areas meeting these criteria or the definition of indigenous vegetation qualify for protection.

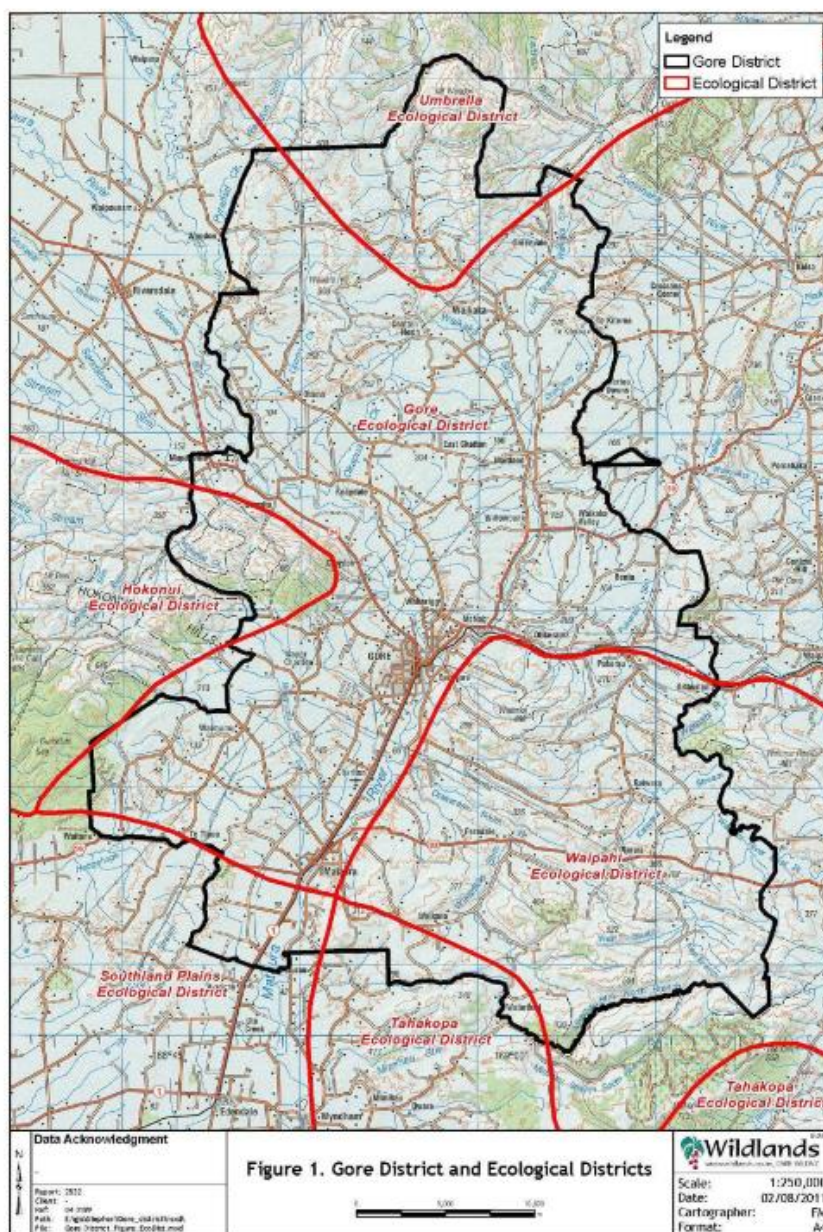
The 2011 Wildlands report accessed on the Council website, the following map link [Gore Wildlands Natural Areas Viewer \(2011\) \(arcgis.com\)](#), and the information below is a good starting point for identifying whether these areas are located on your land.

In the meantime, if you are unsure Wildland Consultants can provide you information. All you need to do is contact the Council to arrange a meeting, which may also require a site visit.

What will this mean for my property?

If your property contains indigenous vegetation it may affect what you can and cannot do on your property. Indigenous vegetation clearance and land disturbance is limited.

Indigenous vegetation clearance involves removal of plants that are native to the ecological district in which they are located. The Gore District has six ecological districts as outlined in the map below:



Below is a summary of the vegetation and habitats that are native to those ecological districts.

Ecological District Summaries

Southland Plains Ecological District

Southland Plains ED would have originally contained more extensive forests and wetlands than are now present. Forests would have included lowland swamp forests of kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), mixed podocarp forests on hillsides, and riparian forests with kōwhai (*Sophora microphylla*) and lowland ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius*). Today, landcover is dominated by high producing exotic grassland (c.89% landcover in the ED) due to conversion of land for farming. There are very few native habitats remaining in the part of Southland Plains ED within Gore District, but small red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*) grasslands may persist.

Tahakopa Ecological District

Tahakopa ED would have originally contained extensive low-altitude podocarp/kāmahi (*Pterophylla racemosa*) forests. These have now been largely cleared for agriculture, with high-producing exotic grassland today comprising c.55% landcover within the ED (Landcover Database v2). Remaining native forests (c.33% cover) are mostly located at higher elevations outside Gore District.

Gore Ecological District

Pre-human vegetation in Gore ED would have comprised extensive forests on lowlands and hill slopes, and extensive wetlands on valley floors. Prior to European settlement, most of Gore ED would have been covered in red tussock grassland, with areas of narrow-leaved snow tussock (*Chionochloa rigida*)-red tussock hybrids. There would also have been localised areas of podocarp and podocarp-hardwood forest (McEwen 1987). Today, due to vegetation clearance and modification for pastoral land uses, c.90% of the district comprises high producing exotic grassland (Landcover Database v2). Native habitats persist in the form of small, modified red tussock grasslands on rolling low country and in areas with poor drainage, swamps, bogs, and short-tussock grasslands and matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*) in drier habitats. Native forest, scrub, grassland, and freshwater wetland habitats each comprise <1% of land cover, and all native habitats <3% land cover, within the ED (Landcover Database v2; Appendix 1).

Hokonui Ecological District

The eastern parts of Hokonui Ecological District would have been mostly covered in podocarp-hardwood and podocarp forest, with red tussockland in the northern and western uplands. Today, high producing exotic grassland comprises c.45% landcover, native forest and scrub c.25% landcover, and indigenous tall tussock grasslands c.16% landcover within Hokonui Ecological District (Landcover Database v2). Remaining forest in the east of Hokonui Ecological District contains kahikatea, mataī (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), miro (*Pectinopitys ferruginea*), southern rātā (*Metrosideros umbellata*), Hall's tōtara (*Podocarpus*

laetus), and kāmahī. There are also remnants of red tussock grassland, short tussock grassland, mixed scrub, mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), and narrow-leaved snow tussock grassland.

Umbrella Ecological District

Prior to human settlement of New Zealand, forest would have been more widespread in Umbrella Ecological District. After the arrival of Polynesians, there was an increase in the frequency of fires. Forests were largely replaced by tall tussock grasslands with small remnants restricted to fire refuges. European settlement resulted in vegetation clearance, grazing, and the introduction of exotic plant species. Present-day vegetation consists mostly of high producing exotic grassland (c.35% of total land cover in the ED), low producing grassland (c.30% of cover), and tall tussock grassland (c.20% of cover) (Landcover Database v2). Native beech (*Fuscospora* sp. and *Lophozonia* sp.) forest covers c.8.7%, and native scrub c.2.4%, of the ED. In the part of Umbrella Ecological District within Gore District, native vegetation and habitats are likely to comprise modified red tussock wetlands, lowland tussockland, small remnant stands of silver beech (*Lophozonia menziesii*), and remnants of lowland mixed shrubland.

Waipahi Ecological District

Waipahi ED would have originally been almost entirely forested. The area within Gore district would have contained podocarp/kāmahī forests. Early Polynesian fires would have replaced the forest with induced red tussock grasslands between c.1200 and 1800 AD (McEwen 1987). After European settlement, there was substantial vegetation clearance and modification as the land was converted for pastoral farming. Today, most of the district comprises high producing exotic grassland, although a few heavily modified remnant tussock grasslands, forest and scrub remnants persist. Native forest and scrub are now predominantly on south-facing hillslopes.

Typical vegetation and habitat types present in Gore District

Below is a brief overview of the most common native vegetation and habitat types that are present in the Gore District. This is not comprehensive, and small areas of other types may also be present.

Podocarp and broadleaved forests

These forests contain podocarps (kahikatea, miro, Hall's tōtara, rimu, mataī), and small trees of broadleaved species (e.g., kāpuka [*Griselinia littoralis*], marbleleaf [*Carpodetus serratus*], kaikōmako [*Pennantia corymbosa*], tree fuchsia [*Fuchsia excorticata*], patē [*Schefflera digitata*], kōhūhū [*Pittosporum tenuifolium*], wineberry [*Aristotelia serrata*], horopito [*Pseudowintera colorata*]). *Coprosma* species and ferns are often present in shrub and ground cover layers.

Successional forests lack mature podocarps, and contain only small trees of broadleaved species, with possible seedlings or saplings of podocarps.



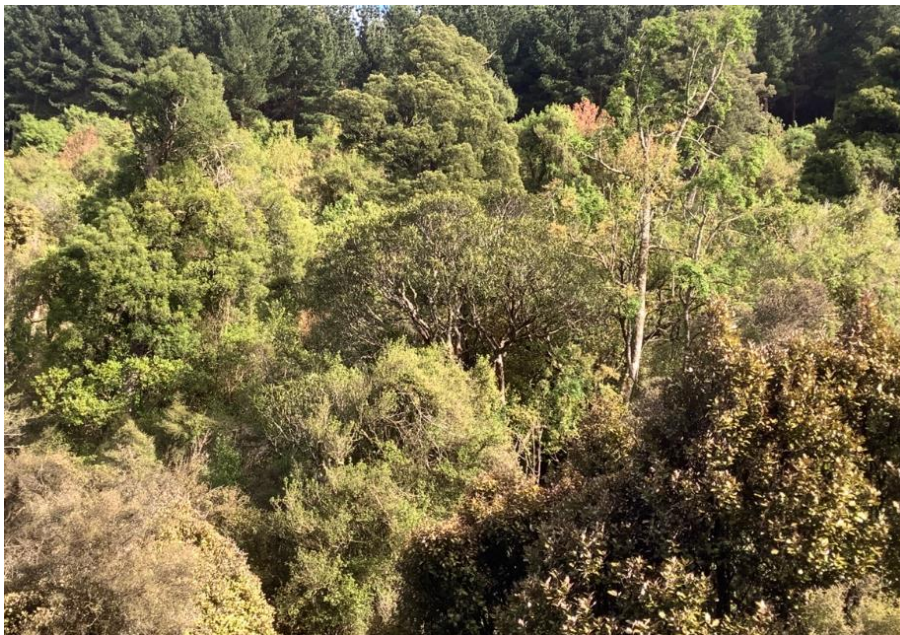
Successional broadleaved forest on hillside.



Interior of broadleaved forest, with tree fuchsia and kāpuka trees in the canopy and ferns on the forest floor



Interior of broadleaved forest, with horopito abundant in the canopy.



Podocarp/broadleaved forest, with occasional emergent matai in the upper part of the photograph.

Silver beech forest

Small patches of forest containing silver beech, marbleleaf and mānuka are present, particularly in the north of the Gore District. Ground ferns are common.



Silver beech forest, with mānuka also present in the subcanopy.

Scrub and shrubland

Three main types of scrub and shrubland are present in Gore District, all being successional vegetation communities:

- Broadleaved scrub, containing broadleaved forest tree species, and often with exotic species such as gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).
- Grey scrub and shrubland, dominated by small-leaved coprosmas with matagouri and other small-leaved species.
- Mānuka/kānuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) scrub and shrubland, with matagouri and coprosmas.



Typical broadleaved scrub, with kōhūhū, patē, gorse, and broom.



Broadleaved scrub dominated by kōhūhū, with cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*), tree fuchsia, coprosmas, and mānuka.



Mānuka scrub in the background, with dense grey shrubland in the foreground containing coprosmas, mānuka, and *Olearia bullata*.



Grey shrubland in the foreground containing coprosmas, mountain tauhinu (*Ozothamnus vauvilliersii*), *Olearia bullata*, and matagouri.



Mānuka/kānuka scrub.

Flaxland

A few areas of flax (*Phormium tenax*) swamp are present in the Gore District, dominated by flax with rautahi (*Carex coriacea*), gorse, and exotic grasses also often present.



Flaxland dominated by flax, with rautahi, ferns and exotic grasses.

Tall tussock grassland

Tall tussock grassland remnants are present throughout the Gore District. They are dominated by red tussock with scattered narrow-leaved snow tussock on hillslopes or stream margins. Tall tussock grassland vegetation on stream margins tends to occur in narrow, linear strips. Most remnants are grazed and contain exotic pasture species.



Tall tussock grassland dominated by red tussock and rautahi, with exotic pasture species and occasional flax and coprosmas.



Red tussock grassland among exotic pasture.

Short tussock grassland

Hard tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae*) grassland with introduced species of grasses and herbs is present in places in Gore District.



Hard tussock grassland.

Raised bog peatlands

Raised bogs are a distinctive feature of valley floors in many parts of Southland Region. Vegetation comprises red tussock, wire rush (*Empodisma minus*), and *Sphagnum* over deep peat. Other species present include *Dracophyllum* spp., tangle fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa*), and *Baumea* spp. Today, these wetlands tend to be hydrologically isolated by modification of their catchments through drainage and agriculture. A well-known example in Gore District is the Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve.



Raised bog peatland vegetation containing red tussock, wire rush, and flax.

Sedgeland

Small areas dominated by sedges (e.g., rautahi) are present in old river channels and oxbows of the Maitake River and Waikaka Stream, along stream margins, and by ponds. Flax and introduced willows (*Salix* spp.) are also commonly part of the vegetation.



Sedgeland dominated by rautahi.

Native Plants Recorded in Gore District

Gore District contains a large number of native plant species from forest, shrubland, tussockland, sedgeland, and wetland habitats. Two hundred and ninety-three native plant species are recorded in species lists available on the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website (www.nzpcn.org.nz). Twenty-one threatened plant species have been recorded in Gore District (Table 1). Many of these threatened species have been recorded in Department of Conservation-administered reserves (e.g., Croydon Bush Scenic Reserve), but they may also be present on private land. There may also be additional threatened plant species not yet recorded within Gore District.

Table 1: Threatened plant species recorded in Gore District (from species lists contained on the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website [www.nzpcn.org.nz]).

Species	Common Name	Threat Classification ¹
<i>Carex longifructus</i>	Hook sedge	At Risk-Naturally Uncommon
<i>Carex strictissima</i>	Hook sedge	Threatened-Nationally Endangered
<i>Carex tenuiculmis</i>	Slender wine sedge	At Risk-Declining
<i>Carmichaelia petriei</i>	Desert broom	At Risk-Declining
<i>Coprosma virescens</i>		At Risk-Declining
<i>Coprosma wallii</i>		At Risk-Declining
<i>Craspedia uniflora</i> var. <i>uniflora</i>	Woollyhead	Data Deficient
<i>Discaria toumatou</i>	Matagouri, tūmatakuru	At Risk-Declining

¹ Taken from de Lange P.J., Rolfe J.R., Barkla J.W., Courtney S.P., Champion P.D., Perrie L.R., Beadel S.M., Ford K.A., Breitwiser I., Schönberger I., Hindmarsh-Walls R., Heenan P.B., and Ladley K. 2018: Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series* 22. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 82 pp.

Species	Common Name	Threat Classification ¹
<i>Epilobium insulare</i>	Willowherb	At Risk-Declining
<i>Gaultheria depressa</i> var. <i>depressa</i>		Data Deficient
<i>Geranium microphyllum</i>		At Risk-Naturally Uncommon
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Kānuka	Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Mānuka	At Risk-Declining
<i>Mentha cunninghamii</i>	New Zealand mint, hihoi	At Risk-Declining
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	White rātā	Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable
<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>	Southern rātā	Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable
<i>Neomyrtus pedunculata</i>	Rōhutu	Threatened-Nationally Critical
<i>Olearia fragrantissima</i>	Fragrant tree daisy	At Risk-Declining
<i>Olearia hectorii</i>	Hector's tree daisy	Threatened-Nationally Endangered
<i>Pseudopanax ferox</i>	Fierce lancewood	At Risk-Naturally Uncommon
<i>Tupeia antarctica</i>	Tāpia, white mistletoe	At Risk-Declining

4. Avifauna recorded in Gore District

A total of 64 species of birds (42 indigenous, 22 exotic) have been recorded in Gore District within the eBird online database. Several threatened bird species utilise habitats within Gore District (Table 2). Additional threatened avifauna species not recorded on this list may also at times utilise habitat in Gore District.

Table 2: Threatened avifauna species recorded in Gore District (eBird records, filtering to confirmed records within the Gore District between 1st January 2012 and 30th April 2023).

Species	Common Name	Threat Classification ²
<i>Chlidonias albostratus</i>	Black-fronted tern/tarapirohe	Threatened-Nationally Endangered
<i>Falco novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>	Eastern falcon/kārearea	Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian tern/taranui	Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>	New Zealand pipit/pīhoihoi	At Risk-Declining
<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Sooty shearwater/tītī	At Risk-Declining
<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	Banded dotterel/pohowera	At Risk-Declining
<i>Chroicocephalus bulleri</i>	Black-billed gull/tarāpuka	At Risk-Declining
<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	Red-billed gull/tarāpunga	At Risk-Declining
<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	South Island pied oystercatcher/tōrea	At Risk-Declining
<i>Poodytes punctatus punctatus</i>	South Island fernbird/mātātā	At Risk-Declining
<i>Elsyornis melanops</i>	Black-fronted dotterel	At Risk-Naturally Uncommon
<i>Fulica atra australis</i>	Australian coot	At Risk-Naturally Uncommon
<i>Phalacrocorax varius varius</i>	Pied shag/kāruhiruhi	At Risk-Recovering
<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	Little shag/kawaupaka	At Risk-Relict
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	Black shag/māpunga	At Risk-Relict

² Taken from Robertson H.A., Baird K., Elliott G.P., Hitchmough R.A., McArthur N.J., Makan T., Miskelly C.M., O'Donnell C.J., Sagar P.M., Scofield R.P., Taylor G.A., and Michel P. 2021: Conservation status of New Zealand birds, 2021. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series* 36. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 43 pp.

Species	Common Name	Threat Classification ²
<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>	Mottled petrel/kōrure	At Risk-Relict

Herpetofauna recorded in Gore District

Six native lizard species have been recorded in the Gore District (Table 3). Five of these species are listed as Threatened or At Risk. Additional native lizard species not recorded on this list may be present in Gore District.

Table 3: Herpetofauna species recorded in Gore District (DOC Bioweb herpetofauna database [accessed May 2022], and iNaturalist [accessed July 2020]).

Species	Common Name	Threat Classification ³
<i>Oligosoma maccanni</i>	McCann's skink	Not Threatened
<i>Oligosoma chloronoton</i>	Southland green skink	Threatened - Nationally Critical
<i>Oligosoma chionocholescens</i> *	Tussock skink	At Risk - Declining
<i>Oligosoma inconspicuum</i> **	Cryptic skink	At Risk - Declining
<i>Oligosoma murihiku</i> ***	Herbfield skink	At Risk - Declining
<i>Woodworthia</i> 'Otago/Southland Large'	Kōrero gecko	At Risk - Declining

³ Taken from Hitchmough R., Barr B., Knox, C., Lettink M., Monks J., Patterson G., Reardon J., van Winkel D., Rolfe J., and Pascele M. 2021: Conservation status of New Zealand reptiles. 2021. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series* 35. Department of Conservation, Wellington.

* Previously known as southern grass skink. Not yet formally accepted by taxonomists, but taxonomy has been changed following international guidelines for nomenclature.

**Previously considered one species and has since been split, but this is not recognised within the database. Records may be herbfield or cryptic skink.

***Previously known as *Oligosoma* aff. *inconspicuum* 'Herbfield'. Not yet formally accepted by taxonomists, but taxonomy has been changed following international guidelines for nomenclature.

Removal of the vegetation described above and associated land disturbance will require a resource consent from the Council unless it is for one of the following reasons:

- The maintenance, repair, and replacement of existing lawfully established⁴ fences, vehicle tracks, roads, Critical infrastructure, walkways, firebreaks, dams, waterway crossings, or network utilities and the clearance or land disturbance is no more than 1.0m in width from those works (note it is 1.5m for fences and firebreaks).
- The vegetation is causing an imminent danger to human life, structures, and infrastructure or the works are required to address a high risk to public health or safety⁵
- For Mahinga kai activities or for other Ngāi Tahu cultural purposes where the clearance is by mana whenua and in accordance with tikanga protocols.⁶
- For the safe operation or maintenance of the National Grid⁷
- Maintenance of improved pasture⁸ where:
 - the improved pasture has not become a SNA⁹, and

-
- ⁴ Note – works predating 31 August 2023 will likely be lawfully established outside the Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve and Waterfall Range as works in these areas did not require consent in the ODP.

⁵ Council's ecologist will need to determine whether the vegetation is causing imminent danger.

⁶ A Hokonui Rūnanaga representative will determine whether this provision is met

⁷ A representative of Transpower will determine this

⁸ See definition

⁹ Confirm with Council's ecologist

- the land is not an uncultivated depositional landform¹⁰, and
- it will not adversely affect a Threatened or At Risk (declining) species¹¹.
- In accordance with an approved Reserve Act or Conservation Act reserve management plan¹².
- For the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing buildings and structures, or to remove a potential fire risk, including an area no further than 2.0m from the exterior wall of an existing building.
- The removal of exotic species generally and pest plants and pest animals in accordance with any Regional Pest Management Plan or the Biosecurity Act 1993¹³
- The works are undertaken in accordance with a Biodiversity Covenant¹⁴.
- The works are associated with the harvest of indigenous tree species in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949¹⁵. or
- The works relate to indigenous vegetation that was deliberately planted¹⁶:
 - Within a domestic garden; or
 - For the use of screening/shelter belt purposes (such as farm hedgerows).

However, if you wish to undertake other activities requiring land disturbance of vegetation clearance that will affect indigenous biodiversity areas you will likely need a resource consent pursuant to ECO-R1. Consent will also be required for subdivision (SUB-R11), provision of new infrastructure (INFR-R9), hazardous substances (HAZS-R1), and roads (TRANS-R1).

The planting of exotic weed species and the intentional release or farming of animal pests should be avoided. Lists of exotic weed species and animal pests can be found in the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan as outlined below.

¹⁰ See definition – need advice from Environment Southland

¹¹ See definition and refer to threatened species information above

¹² Confirm with Council's Parks team or DoC

¹³ See list of Pest Plants and Animals below

¹⁴ Refer to definition

¹⁵ Confirm with the applicant to view FMP or permit

¹⁶ Refer to aerial photos or other materials from the applicant

Table 2: Organisms specified as pests

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Programme	GNR
Plants			
African club moss* ³	<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>	Site-led	
Bomarea*	<i>Bomarea multiflora</i>	Progressive containment	
Boneseed*	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Exclusion	
Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Eradication	
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Sustained control	✓
Buddleja	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Progressive containment	
Chilean needle grass*	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Exclusion	
Contorta (lodgepole) pine*	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Progressive containment	
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i> , <i>C. glaucophyllus</i> , <i>C. simonsii</i> *	Progressive containment	
Darwin's barberry*	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	Progressive containment	
Field horsetail*	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Eradication	
German ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>	Eradication	
Giant buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Progressive containment	
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Sustained control	✓
Gunnera* ³	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Site-led	
Hawthorn ³	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Site-led	
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Progressive containment ¹	
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Progressive containment	
Knotweed (Indian/Himalayan) ³	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i> (syn <i>Polygonum polystachyum</i>)	Site-led	
Lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Progressive containment	
Mountain pine	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Progressive containment	
Nassella tussock*	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Exclusion	
Nodding thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Sustained control	✓
Old man's beard*	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Progressive containment	
Parrots feather*	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Eradication	
Purple loosestrife*	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Eradication	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Primary Programme	GNR
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Sustained control	✓
Reed sweet grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Progressive containment	
Rough horsetail*	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Progressive containment	
Siberian lyme grass	<i>Leymus racemosus</i>	Progressive containment	
Smilax*	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Eradication	
Spanish heath ³	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Site-led	
Spartina	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	Eradication	
Wilding conifers ²		Progressive containment	✓
Willow (crack, grey)* ³	<i>Salix fragilis</i> , <i>S. cinerea</i>	Site-led	
Animals			
Bengal cat	<i>Felis catus var. Bengal</i>	Progressive containment	
Feral cat ³	<i>Felis catus</i>	Site-led	
Feral goat ³	<i>Capra aegagrus hircus</i>	Site-led	
Feral pig ³	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Site-led	
Hedgehog ³	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Site-led	
House Mouse ³	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Site-led	
Mustelids (ferret, stoat, weasel) ³	<i>Mustela furo</i> , <i>M. erminea</i> , <i>M. nivalis</i>	Site-led	
Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Sustained control ¹	
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Sustained control	
Rat (Norway, ship and kiore) ³	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> , <i>R. rattus</i> , <i>R. exulans</i>	Site-led	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Exclusion	
Wallaby*** - Bennett's, Dama, Parma, Brushtail Rock and Swamp	<i>Macropus rufogriseus rufogriseus</i> , <i>M. eugenii</i> , <i>M. parma</i> , <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> , <i>Wallabia bicolor</i>	Exclusion	

What are the changes from the operative Gore District plan?

The ODP only currently identifies the Waterfall Range and the Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve as SNA's but there are no general vegetation clearance controls applying outside these areas. Most activities within an SNA require consent in the ODP including the felling or removal of indigenous vegetation, the planting of shelterbelts, woodlots or commercial forestry, earthworks (apart from forming of pedestrian tracks), and the erection of buildings and other structures.

If my zoning changes, will it affect my rates?

At the moment rates are set by a 'rating boundary', however, this may change through the upcoming Long Term Plan when Council propose that rates will be assessed based on matters such as the land use of the site, connection to services and proximity to amenities in town. The zoning of your property under the Gore District Plan would not have a bearing on your rates as these are being reviewed in any event. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback on changes to rates as part of the Long Term Plan consultation process. The Council will also be considering whether rates remissions will be applied to properties containing SNAs, similar to the current approach for QEII covenants.

What about existing activities?

Existing activities that are no longer permitted can continue to operate as they are under existing use rights, but if the activity is changing or expanding a resource consent would be needed. If you want formal confirmation from the Council that existing use rights apply, you can apply for an Existing Use Certificate. Existing activities that operate under a resource consent continue to operate in accordance with the conditions of the consent.

Key definitions:

biodiversity covenant	Has the same meaning as the definition of Covenant or Kawenata from the NPSIB – means a covenant or kawenata that is: (a) registered against the record of title or lease agreement (as relevant), under any of the following: (i) section 22 of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977; (ii) Section 27 or section 27A of the Conservation Act 1987; (iii) Section 76 and 77 of the Reserves Act 1977; and (b) is identified, with the agreement of the relevant landowner or lessee and the prior written consent of the covenantee, by the relevant local authority as a specified covenant or kawenata.
depositional landform	Has the same meaning as the NPSIB – means a landform that is alluvial (matter deposited by water, (eg, fans, river flats, and terraces), colluvial (matter deposited by gravity at the base of hillslopes, (eg, talus), or glacial (matter deposited by glaciers, (eg, moraines and outwash).
indigenous vegetation	Has the same meaning as per the National Planning Standard for Indigenous Biodiversity – means vascular and non-vascular plants that, in relation to a particular area, are native to the ecological district in which that area is located.
indigenous vegetation clearance	Means the clearing or removal of <i>indigenous vegetation</i> by any means, including cutting, crushing, <i>cultivation</i> , irrigation, chemical application, drainage, stopbanking, overplanting, burning or any other mechanical means as well as mob stocking.
maintenance of improved pasture	Has the same meaning as the NPSIB – includes the removal of indigenous vegetation for the purpose of maintaining the improved pasture, whether the removal is by way of cutting, crushing, applying chemicals, draining, burning, cultivating, over-planting, applying seed of exotic pasture species, mob stocking, or making changes to soils, hydrology, or landforms.
significant natural area (SNA)	Has the same meaning as per the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and means: (a) Areas identified as SNA-1 (Waterfall Range) and SNA-2 (Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve) on the planning maps until a suitably qualified ecologist engaged by Gore District Council determines that it is not an SNA (b) any area that is notified or included in a district plan as an SNA following an assessment of the area in accordance with Appendix 4 SNA also includes areas meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix 4 including those identified at resource consent stage or as part of a Farm Environment Plan assessment or as part of a Biodiversity Covenant.
Threatened or At Risk, and Threatened or At Risk (declining)	Has the same meaning as the NPSIB – have, at any time, the meanings given in the New Zealand Threat Classification System Manual (Andrew J Townsend, Peter J de Lange, Clinton A J Duffy, Colin Miskelly, Janice Molloy and David A Norton, 2008. Science & Technical Publishing, Department of Conservation, Wellington), available at: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-andtechnical/sap244.pdf , or its current successor publication.

Links to the Proposed District Plan

This information sheet addresses a few of the key provisions in the Proposed District Plan. It should not be used as a definitive representation of content. To view actual Proposed District Plan content, please go to www.lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz

Make a submission

To find out how to submit on the Proposed Gore District Plan, head to www.lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz.