KEY

Red Underlined – Additions recommended as part of ECO s42A Report

~~Red Strikethrough~~ – Deletions recommended as part of ECO s42A Report

Green Underlined – Additions recommended as part of ECO Supplementary Evidence

~~Green Strikethrough~~ – Deletions recommended as part of ECO Supplementary Evidence

Purple Underlined – Additions recommended as part of initial response to Minute 41

~~Purple Strikethrough~~ – Deletions recommended as part of initial response to Minute 41

ECOSYSTEMS AND INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY – ECO

Overview

The District contains areas of vegetation which have species and ecosystems that are native to New Zealand and the local area, and are classified as significant areas of indigenous vegetation or habitats of indigenous fauna under Section 6(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). To achieve the purpose of the RMA and promote sustainable management, the District Plan must identify and protect significant areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna as a matter of national importance. A key function of Territorial Authorities under the RMA is the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity under Section 31(1)(b)(iii).

All indigenous vegetation is a taonga to mana whenua. Many species are highly valued for mahinga kai (as food, fibre or medicine). Healthy, robust indigenous ecosystems are important to maintain the mauri of the whenua (land), wai (water) and te taiao (environment).

Recognising and providing for the relationship of Māori and their customs and traditions with their ancestral lands, waters, sites wāhi tapu and other taonga is a Matter of National Importance under s6(~~e~~e) of the RMA.

For mana whenua the issue does not turn on the protection of specific sites which are identified as 'significant'. The takiwā is home so mana whenua have a relationship with all whenua, wai and ecosystems within the takiwā. Therefore, the focus is on enhancing the quality and quantity of indigenous biodiversity within the District: maintaining the ecological function, integrity and value of established indigenous ecosystems and the habitats that support them; and encouraging areas of regeneration and new planting. As such, mana whenua support an approach which encourages landholders to both retain and enhance indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems on-site.

The Operative District Plan (2006) predates the Southland Regional Policy Statement 2017 (RPS) and the release of the National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) (2023 and 2024 amendments) The RPS and NPSIB both contain criteria for identifying areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna (SNA/SIVA). While comprehensive mapping has not been

undertaken to identify SNAs/SIVAs in the Gore District, the Gore District Plan Efficiency and Effectiveness Review 2023 indicates that:

- the Operative plan provisions have been partially effective at protecting identified SNAs, and
- there has been a reduction in native vegetation which would suggest further protection needs to be afforded to biodiversity within the District; and
- based on changes to national and regional policy direction, there is a gap in current identified SNAs that will need to be addressed following the release of the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity.

The RPS and NPSIB also have a broader range of objectives and policies that have been considered in developing the provisions of this chapter. A 10-year implementation timeframe for the NPSIB is required ~~anticipated~~, which includes the development of a regional biodiversity strategy, an integrated approach across administrative boundaries, the need to work in partnership with tangata whenua and landowners, and notes that support will be provided from the regional council for mapping ~~which must be completed by August 2028~~. It is proposed that a ~~variation~~ plan change will be notified to the Proposed District Plan once mapping has been completed.

Specific provisions have been included in the ECO chapter relating to indigenous vegetation clearance within the Hokonui Hills Area to recognise the scale of farming operations, the different levels of significance of indigenous vegetation, and landowner conservation practices. Further guidance is available at Gore District Council for Wantwood Station and Stoney Creek Station including a detailed assessment against the terrestrial provisions of Appendix 3 of the Southland Regional Policy Statement.

The removal of exotic species generally and pest plants and pest animals are enabled in the District Plan but not specifically addressed as this is managed by the Regional Pest Management Plan or the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Objectives

ECO-O1 ~~Maintain indigenous biological diversity in the Gore District and protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna (Significant Natural Areas).~~ Indigenous biological diversity is maintained, and areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna (Significant Natural Areas/Significant Indigenous Vegetation Areas) are protected in the Gore District.

ECO-O2 Significant Natural Areas/Significant Indigenous Vegetation Areas are identified and protected by working ~~work~~ in partnership with Local Authorities, Government agencies, mana whenua, stakeholders and landowners ~~to identify and protect Significant Natural Areas~~.

ECO-O3 ~~Provide for appropriate subdivision, use and development within Significant Natural Areas where the values of the area can be maintained and enhanced.~~ The values of Significant Natural Areas/ Significant Indigenous Vegetation Areas are protected by

avoiding or managing adverse effects from new subdivision, use and development

ECO-O4 ~~The relationship of mana whenua and their customs and traditions with Significant Natural Areas is recognised and provided for including through:~~

~~1. Facilitation and support for the exercise of kaitiakitanga in relation to indigenous species and habitats;~~

~~2. Maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of habitats that support mahinga kai activities and sustain taonga species; and~~

~~3. Enabling customary use.~~

Indigenous biodiversity is recognised as a taonga to mana whenua and the relationship of mana whenua and their customs and traditions with indigenous vegetation and ecosystems is recognised and provided for including by:

1. Enabling the exercise of kaitiakitanga;
2. Enabling mahinga kai; and
3. Maintaining or where degraded restoring the mauri of indigenous ecosystems.

Policies

ECO-P1 Work in partnership with Local Authorities, mana whenua, stakeholders and landowners to:

1. Identify areas of indigenous vegetation;
2. identify all areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs/SIVAs) to include:
   (a) Areas identified as SNA-1 (~~Waterfall Range~~ Dolamore Park/Croydon Bush) and SNA-2 (Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve) on the planning maps, and
   (b) ~~A variation to the Proposed District Plan to~~ identify areas that meet the terrestrial criteria set out in ~~Appendix 4 or~~ Appendix 3 of the Southland Regional Policy Statement; and
3. map and provide information about specified highly mobile fauna areas once they have been included in the Southland Regional Policy Statement ~~map and describe each specified highly mobile fauna area~~.

ECO-P2 Enable ~~Allow~~ activities within or affecting SNAs/SIVAs that may impact ~~indigenous biodiversity values~~ the extent or ecological integrity of the SNA/SIVA where:

1. the activity is a lawfully established activity; or
2. their purpose is to facilitate or express Ngāi Tahu rights, interests, or cultural purpose; or
3. the activity has a functional need or operational need to be located in the area and there are no practicable alternative locations;

or

4. the activity has no more than minor adverse effects on the significant indigenous vegetation or fauna habitat, and/or Ngāi Tahu cultural purpose; or
5. activities are consistent with a biodiversity covenant or management plan for the purpose of protecting or restoring the SNAs/SIVAs ecological values; or
6. the activity is no greater in intensity, scale or character: or
7. the activity involves the removal of exotic species and pest plants and pest animals in accordance with the Regional Pest Management Plan.

ECO-P3 Any new subdivision, use, or development shall avoid adverse effects on an SNA/SIVA that result in:

1. loss of ecosystem representation and extent;
2. disruption to sequences, mosaics, or *ecosystem* function;
3. fragmentation of SNAs/SIVAs or the loss of buffers or connections within a~~n~~ SNA/SIVA;
4. reduction in the function of the SNA/SIVA as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or *ecosystems*; and
5. a reduction in the population size or occupancy of *Threatened or At Risk (declining)* species that use a~~n~~ SNA/SIVA for any part of their life cycle;

Unless they relate to:

6. Construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure or the National Grid that provides significant national or regional public benefit;
7. Mineral and aggregate extraction that provides significant national public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resource in New Zealand;
8. The operation or expansion of any coal mine that was lawfully established before 4 August 2023, except that after 31 December 2030 this exception applies only to coal mines that extract Coking coal; and
9. ~~There is a~~ A functional need or operational need to be in that particular location and there are no practicable alternative locations or in relation to the *National Grid* any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated.

ECO-P4 Manage any adverse effects on an SNA/SIVA from a new subdivision, use or development relating to the following matters in accordance with the effects management hierarchy:

1. Construction of specified infrastructure (excluding development of the *National Grid*) that provides significant national or regional public benefit:

2. Mineral and aggregate extraction that provides significant national public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resource in New Zealand;
3. The operation or expansion of any coal mine that was lawfully established before 4 August 2023,
4. A single residential dwelling on an allotment created before 4 August 2023 and there is no practicable location within the allotment for dwelling construction and on-site infrastructure to avoid adverse effects outlined in ECO-P3(1) to ECO-P3(5),
5. Maintaining or restoring a~~n~~ SNA/SIVA and this does not involve the permanent destruction of significant habitat of indigenous biodiversity,
6. An activity associated with the harvest of indigenous tree species from a SNA/SIVA carried out in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under part 3A of the Forests Act 1949, such as track clearance and timber storage, but not the harvesting of trees itself.

ECO-P5 ~~Plantation~~ Commercial Forest activities in any existing ~~plantation~~ commercial forest within a SNA/SIVA must be managed in a manner that:

1. Maintains indigenous biodiversity in the SNA/SIVA as far as practicable while providing for ~~plantation~~ commercial forest activities to continue, and
2. Maintains the long-term populations (including population size, age structure and distribution) of any *Threatened or At Risk (declining)* species present in the area.

ECO-P6 Promote the restoration of indigenous biodiversity by prioritising:

1. SNAs/SIVAs whose ecological integrity is degraded:
2. threatened and rare ecosystems representative of naturally occurring and formerly present ecosystems and taonga species:
3. areas that provide important connectivity or buffering functions:
4. ~~natural inland wetlands whose ecological integrity is degraded or that no longer retain their indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna:~~
5. areas of indigenous biodiversity on specified Māori land where restoration is advanced by the Māori landowners:
6. any other priorities specified in regional biodiversity strategies, iwi planning documents or any national priorities for indigenous biodiversity restoration:
7. initiatives by mana whenua, landowners, land managers, community groups and others to protect, restore and maintain areas of significant indigenous biodiversity

ECO-P7 Protect, enhance and restore Significant Natural Areas/SIVA by:

1. Minimising the loss, fragmentation and reduction of:
   (a) Significant Natural Areas/SIVA
   (b) connections between Significant Natural Areas/SIVA, ~~and~~
   (c) threatened or at risk and indigenous species populations;, and
   (d) the mauri of indigenous ecosystems;
2. ~~Enhancing~~ Enabling mahinga kai;
3. Promoting the creation of connections and ecological corridors between Significant Natural Areas/SIVAs;
4. Promoting the use of eco-sourced species from the relevant ecological district;
5. Enabling opportunities for mana whenua to exercise their customary rights and responsibilities and mana whenua responsibilities as kaitiaki in restoring, protecting and enhancing areas of significant indigenous biodiversity including identified taonga…
6. Supporting initiatives and enabling ~~by~~ landowners, community groups and others to protect, restore and maintain areas of significant indigenous biodiversity.
7. enhancing community knowledge and education

~~ECO-P8 When assessing consents for subdivision, land use and development avoid effects which will:~~

~~1. Prevent an indigenous species or community being able to persist in their habitats in the ecological district;~~

~~2. Result in a degradation of the threat status, further measurable loss of indigenous cover or disruption to ecological processes, functions or connections in land environments in category one or two of the Threatened Environment Classification at the ecological district level;~~

~~3. Result in a reduction in the local population of threatened taxa in the Department of Conservation Threat Categories 1 – 3a - nationally critical, nationally endangered and nationally vulnerable; and~~

~~4. discourage mana whenua access to indigenous biodiversity for a mana whenua cultural purpose~~

~~ECO-P9 When assessing resource consents in Significant Natural Areas, consider the following matters:~~

~~1. The necessity for the activity to provide for critical infrastructure or renewable electricity generation;~~

~~2. Whether formal protection and active management of all or part of any Significant Natural Area will occur as part of the subdivision, land use or development;~~

~~3. The extent to which the proposed activity recognises and provides for Ngāi Tahu cultural purposes, rights and interests;~~

~~4. The cumulative effects of activities within or adjacent to any area of indigenous vegetation or habitat;~~

~~5. The effects the activity may have on the introduction or spread of exotic weed species and pest animals both terrestrial and aquatic;~~

~~6. The impacts on mahinga kai activities and species;~~

~~7. The impact of the activity on the values of any Significant Natural Area, rare or threatened indigenous species or taonga species and how any potential impact could be avoided, remedied or mitigated; and~~

~~8. The appropriateness and effectiveness of any biodiversity offsetting or compensation in accordance with ECO – P7 to offset any residual adverse effects that remain after avoiding, remedying and mitigating measures have been applied.~~

ECO-P10 Maintain indigenous biodiversity across the district by:

1. Avoiding adverse effects of new subdivision, use or development that result in a reduction in the local population of threatened taxa in the Department of Conservation Threat Categories 1 – 3a - nationally critical, nationally endangered and nationally vulnerable.

1A. Managing any significant adverse effects of new subdivision, use or development by applying the effects management hierarchy;

2. Managing the adverse effects of new subdivision, use or development on highly mobile fauna areas in order to maintain ~~viable~~ populations of specified highly mobile fauna across their natural range

3. Maintaining, and where appropriate enhancing or restoring, the functioning of ecological corridors and linkages;

4. Minimising adverse effects on, and encouraging mana whenua access to, areas of indigenous biodiversity which are significant to mana whenua;

5. Establishing a Biodiversity Stakeholder Group to review District Plan provisions, encourage ongoing non-regulatory assistance, and ~~enhance~~ support landowners in their engagement with Council;

6. ~~Developing~~ Contributing to a regional biodiversity strategy that would consider free ecological surveys, financial support to Significant Natural Area landowners, rates remissions for Significant Natural Areas, and advice and support for local conservation groups and programmes;

7. Preserving protected wildlife; and

8. Recognising the benefits of farm management practices and active management of indigenous biodiversity, including the ~~voluntary~~ control of invasive plant and animal species ~~animal and plant pest~~ and voluntary stock control and/or formal legal protection.

9. Providing for ecological enhancement works that will restore or enhance areas of indigenous biodiversity.

ECO-P11 Provide for indigenous *biodiversity offsets* and *biodiversity compensation* ~~to manage residual adverse effects of an activity~~ where:

1. More than minor residual effects of an activity cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied; and
2. The goal of the biodiversity offsets is no net loss and, preferably, a net gain of biodiversity of similar species and location can be achieved where practicable;
3. The conservation outcomes are measurable and positive; and
4. The biodiversity offsets or compensation are in accordance with best practice, including but not limited to New Zealand Government guidance on biodiversity offsetting; and
5. Any off-setting and compensation packages are ~~consistent with Ngāi Tahu cultural purposes~~ appropriate considering the whakapapa, mauri and any mahinga kai values of both sites and areas.
6. In relation to the development of the *National Grid*, biodiversity offsetting is deemed appropriate and practical by Transpower New Zealand Limited.

~~ECO-P12 Avoid the planting of exotic weed invasive species and the intentional release or farming of animal pests within SNA's~~

ECO-P13 Enable a range of activities and associated *indigenous vegetation clearance* that recognises the scale of farming operations, the different levels of significance of indigenous vegetation, and landowner conservation practises in the *Hokonui Hills Area.*

Notes

Note 1	Provisions in Other Chapters
	The provisions in this chapter apply in addition to the provisions of the other chapters in the District Plan and the plan should be read as a whole. Overlays are applied to areas which have specific values or risks that need to be managed carefully, and these are addressed as district-wide matters in Part 2 of the plan. An overlay applies on top of the zoning and can cover multiple zones or other identified areas. Some activities that span the district are also addressed as district wide matters in Part 2 of the plan, for example Subdivision, Earthworks, Noise, Signs and Light. Plan users should note that the district-wide activity rules, zone rules and other area specific rules apply in conjunction with the district-wide overlay rules. This chapter also implements other chapters in the District Plan that do not have specific rules such as ~~Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori and~~ the strategic direction chapters and Mana Whenua.

Note 2	Guidance on Indigenous Biodiversity Values
	The Gore district overlaps with five ecological districts. Information about the Indigenous biodiversity values across Gore is provided in the following link - https://lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz/proposed-district-plan-topics-faqs. Information about taonga species is included in schedule 97 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Rules

ECO-R1	Indigenous vegetation clearance and land disturbance	
All areas except the Hokonui Hills Area	**Activity status: Permitted** Where: 1. It is necessary for any of the following purposes: (a) the maintenance, repair, ~~or~~ replacement or upgrade of existing lawfully established ~~*lawfully established*~~: (i) *fences*, (ii) vehicle tracks and farm tracks, (iii) *roads*, *(iv) Critical infrastructure,* (v) walkways, (vi) firebreaks, (vii) dams, (viii) waterway crossings, or *(ix) network utilities* and the clearance or land disturbance is no more than 1.0m in width either side of ~~from~~ those works in (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vii), (viii) and (ix), and 1.5m for (vi) and where necessary is no greater ~~than existing~~ in width than originally cleared for (i), critical infrastructure other than roads, (vii), (ix),	**ECO-R1(2)** **Activity status where compliance is not achieved with:** ECO-R1(1)(a)(i), ~~or~~ ECO-R1(1)(a)(vi) ~~, is located within an indigenous vegetation area and included in a *Council Authorised Biodiversity Management Plan*~~ or ECO-R1(1)(l): Restricted Discretionary ~~Where:~~ ~~2 The indigenous vegetation clearance and land disturbance does not comply with ECO-R1(1)(a)(i) or ECO-R1(1)(a)(iv)~~ **Matters if Discretion** 1. Effects on indigenous biodiversity values. 2. The matters outlined in ECO-P3, ECO-P7, ~~ECO-P8, ECO-P9 and~~ ECO-P10, and ECO-P11. 3. The quantity and quality of indigenous vegetation impacted and the reasons for the works. 4. The potential danger the vegetation is causing to human life. 5. The need for fencing to protect indigenous biodiversity values.

	~~and .~~ (b) 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 safety. (c) For Mahinga kai activities or for other Ngāi Tahu cultural purposes where the clearance is by *mana whenua* and in accordance with tikanga protocols. (d) For the safe operation or *maintenance* of the *National Grid.* (e) *maintenance of improved pasture* where: (i) the improved pasture has not become a *SNA, and* (ii) the land is not an uncultivated *depositional landform,* and (iii) it will not adversely affect a *Threatened or At Risk (declining)* species. (f) ~~In accordance with~~ To implement an approved Reserve Act or Conservation Act reserve management plan, or a *Biodiversity Covenant*~~, or a *Council Authorised Biodiversity Management Plan.*~~ (g) For the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing *buildings* and *structures*, or to minimise ~~remove~~ a potential fire risk, including an area no further than 2.0m from the exterior wall of an existing *building.* ~~(h) The removal of exotic species generally and pest plants and pest animals in accordance with any Regional Pest Management Plan~~	6. Any functional or operational constraints and the route, site and method selection process. 7. In relation to commercial ~~plantation~~ forestry outside an SNA/SIVA: a. The location of the activity; b. The ecological effects due to – i. The ecological significance of the indigenous vegetation; or ii. The location and extent of indigenous vegetation removal; or iii. The location and extent of indigenous vegetation removal; or c. The mitigation measures proposed; d. Alternatives to clearance and disturbance of indigenous vegetation e. Information and monitoring requirements. **ECO-R1(3)** **Activity status where compliance is not achieved with:** ECO-R1(1) and ECO-R1(2): Discretionary Where: 1. The *indigenous vegetation clearance* and *land disturbance* takes place outside a *Significant Natural Area* or *SIVA*; and 2. The *vegetation clearance* or *land disturbance* does not affect a *Threatened or at risk (declining)* species as confirmed by a Council endorsed ecologist or 3. The *indigenous vegetation clearance* and *land disturbance* is for the development of the *National Grid*. -

	~~or the Biosecurity Act 1993.~~ (i) ~~The works are undertaken in accordance with a *Biodiversity Covenant.*~~ (j) 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 1949. (k) The works relate to indigenous vegetation that was deliberately planted: (i) Within a domestic garden; or (ii) For the use of screening/shelter belt purposes (such as farm hedgerows); or (iii) Around the margins of an existing dam. (l) The indigenous vegetation ~~Located outside SNAs/SIVAs that~~ has grown within an area of ~~plantation~~ commercial forestry and is located outside SNAs/SIVAs. (m) For any other activity for existing farming operations covering an area of less than 50m^2 per 5-year period involving non-forest vegetation.	**ECO-R1(4)** **Activity status where compliance is not achieved with:** ~~**ECO-R1(1), and ECO-R1(2) and**~~ **ECO-R1(3):** Non-complying ~~Where:~~ ~~The *indigenous vegetation clearance* and *land disturbance* takes place inside a *Significant Natural Area*.~~
ECO-R2	***Indigenous vegetation clearance*** ~~**and *land disturbance***~~	
Hokonui Hills Area	**Activity status:** Permitted 1. Where it ~~avoids the loss of threatened or at-risk woody plant species and Hokonui Hills rocky habitat (refer Appendix XX) and~~ is necessary for the following: a. It is for the *maintenance of improved pasture*	**ECO-R2(2)** **Activity status where compliance is not achieved with:** ECO-R2(1)(a) to ECO-R2(1)(~~g~~ j): Restricted Discretionary ~~Where:~~ ~~1. The *indigenous vegetation clearance* and *land disturbance*~~

	that has been identified in Appendix 7 b. 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 safety. c. For Mahinga kai activities or for other Ngāi Tahu cultural purposes where the clearance is by mana whenua and in accordance with tikanga protocols. d. For the safe operation or maintenance of the National Grid. e. The works are in accordance with an approved Reserve Act or Conservation Act reserve management plan. f. The works are undertaken in accordance with a Biodiversity Covenant. g. The works relate to indigenous vegetation that was deliberately planted: i. Within a domestic garden; or ii. For the use of screening/shelter belt purposes (such as farm hedgerows). ~~h. The removal of exotic species generally and pest plants and pest animals in accordance with any Regional Pest Management Plan or the Biosecurity Act 1993.~~ i. The maintenance of existing fences and tracks.	~~does not comply with ECO-R2(1)(a) to ECO-R2(1)(j).~~ **Matters of Discretion** 1. Effects on indigenous biodiversity values. 2. The matters outlined in ECO-P3, ECO-P7, ECO-P8, ECO-P9 and ECO-P10, and ECO-P13. 3. The quantity and quality of indigenous vegetation impacted and the reasons for the works. 4. the potential danger the vegetation is causing to human life. 5. The need to accommodate activities essential for existing farming operations 6. any functional or operational constraints and the route, site and method selection process. **ECO-R2(3)** **Activity status where compliance is not achieved with:** ECO-R2~~(1)(k)~~(2) Non-complying ~~Where:~~ ~~3. The *indigenous vegetation clearance* and *land disturbance* does not comply with ECO-R1(1)(K).~~

	j. It is located in the Hokonui Indigenous Vegetation Area A or B as shown in Appendix 7 it avoids *Threatened and At-risk species* and is necessary for the construction of new fences or tracks, or any other activity essential for existing farming operations covering an area of less than 3,750m^2 per 5 years in Area A and 900m^2 per 5 years in Area B. k. It is located in the Hokonui Indigenous Vegetation Area C or D as shown in Appendix 7, it avoids *Threatened and At-risk species* and is necessary for the construction of new fences covering an area of less than 1,250m^2 per 5 years in Area C and 50m^2 per 5 years in Area D.	
~~**ECO-R2**~~	~~**Planting of exotic weed species identified in a the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan.**~~	
~~**Significant Natural Areas,**~~	~~**Activity status:** Non-complying~~ ~~Where:~~ ~~1. The activity is undertaken within a Significant Natural Area~~	~~**Activity status where compliance is not achieved:** N/A~~
~~**ECO-R3**~~	~~**The intentional release or farming of animal pests identified in a the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan.**~~	
~~**Significant Natural Areas,**~~	~~**Activity status:** Non-Complying~~ ~~Where:~~ ~~1. The activity is undertaken within a Significant Natural Area,~~	~~**Activity status where compliance is not achieved:** N/A~~

Amend SUB-R4 as follows:
6. The site does not contain a SNA/SIVA, threatened or at risk (declining) species or outstanding natural landscape or feature.

Definitions

~~**Council Authorised Biodiversity Management Plan**" is defined as "a management plan that is approved by the Council and mana whenua as part of an assessment of the biodiversity values undertaken or reviewed by a suitably qualified and experienced Council endorsed ecologist. This plan will ensure that SIVA, and IVA are identified Significant Natural Area and taonga species and biodiversity values are protected.~~

biodiversity offset - Has the same meaning as per the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and means: a measurable conservation outcome that meets the requirements in the NPS-IB Appendix 3 and results from actions that: a. redress any more than minor residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity after all appropriate avoidance, minimisation, and remediation measures have been sequentially applied; and b. achieves a measurable net gain compared to that lost.

Biodiversity compensation – Has the same meaning as per the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and means: Means a measurable conservation outcome that meets the requirements of the NPS-IB Appendix 3 and results from actions that are intended to redress any positive actions (excluding biodiversity offsets) to compensate for residual adverse biodiversity effects arising from activities after all appropriate avoidance, remediation, mitigation and biodiversity offset measures have been sequentially applied.

Ecological District means - A particular geographical region that has a characteristic landscape and range of biological communities as shown in McEwen, W Mary (ed), 1987. Ecological regions and districts of New Zealand. Wellington: Department of Conservation.

Ecosystem means the complexes of organisms and their associated physical environment within an area (and comprise: a biotic complex, an abiotic environment or complex, the interactions between the biotic and abiotic complexes, and a physical space in which these operate)

~~**Vegetation Clearance** (a) the disturbance, damage, destruction, or removal of vegetation by any means (for example, by cutting, crushing, application of chemicals, or burning); and (b) includes activities that result in the disturbance, damage, destruction, or removal of vegetation (for example, over-planting, applying the seed of exotic pasture species, mob-stocking, or draining away water); but (c) does not include— (i) the removal of sphagnum moss for the purpose of a harvest in accordance with regulation 48 or 49; or (ii) the crushing of other vegetation for the purpose of maintaining the dominance of sphagnum moss, if the crushing is carried out during a harvest of sphagnum moss or to rehabilitate the moss after it is harvested; or (iii) an activity described in paragraph (a) or (b) that is for the maintenance or construction of fencing for the purpose of excluding stock or marking property boundaries; or (iv) an activity described in paragraph (a) or (b) that is for the maintenance of shelter belts; or (v) the grazing of improved pasture within the relevant setback from a natural wetland.~~

Indigenous vegetation clearance Means any activity that destroys, damages or removes ~~the clearing or removal of~~ indigenous vegetation by any means, including cutting, crushing, cultivation, irrigation, chemical application, drainage, stopbanking, overplanting, burning or any other mechanical means as well as mob stocking.

Indigenous vegetation Has the same meaning as per the National Policy Statement ~~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.

Renewable electricity generation activities – large scale Means electricity generation activities utilising renewable energy sources with a capacity of 20kW or greater for the purpose of exporting electricity directly into the distribution network or National Grid. It includes all ancillary components and activities such as substations, climate/environmental monitoring equipment, earthworks, roading, maintenance buildings, temporary concrete batching plants, internal transmission and fibre networks~~, ***vegetation clearance***~~, and site rehabilitation works.

~~**SNA/SIVA** Has the same meaning as per SNA in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and also means:~~

~~(a) Areas identified as SNA/SIVA-1 (Waterfall Range Dolamore Park and Croydon Bush) and SNA/SIVA-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**; or**~~

~~(b) any area that is notified or included in a district plan as an SNA/SIVA following an assessment of the area in accordance with Appendix 4 or Appendix 3 of the SRPS.~~

~~SNA/SIVA also includes areas meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix 4 or Appendix 3 of the SRPS including those identified at resource consent stage, or as part of a Farm Environment Plan Council Approved Biodiversity Management Plan or as part of a Biodiversity Covenant.~~

~~For Indicative mapping of SIVA please refer to Councils website.~~

Significant Natural Area - SNA
Has the same meaning as SNA in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and includes (a) Areas identified as SNA 1 (Dolamore Park and Croydon Bush) and SNA 2 (Pukerau Red Tussock Reserve) on the planning maps or (b) any area that is mapped and meets the criteria outlined in Appendix 1 of the National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity.

Significant Indigenous Vegetation Area - SIVA
means terrestrial indigenous vegetation meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix 3 of the Southland Regional Policy Statement including those areas identified in Appendix 7, or as part of a resource consent, or Biodiversity Covenant.

~~It is noted that SNA will need to be updated throughout the PDP to be SNA/SIVA.~~

Hokonui Hills Area includes the land depicted in Appendix 7

Sensitive Environment: Means land identified with: Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes or Significant Natural Area/SIVA or Indigenous Vegetation Areas ~~of Indigenous Biodiversity~~.

Pests Has the same meaning as in the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan.

Firebreak has the same meaning as the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2017 and means a natural or an artificial physical barrier against the spread of fire from or into any area of continuous flammable material.

Vehicle track A defined and maintained track or route for the passage of vehicles, including off-road access ways, not forming part of the public road network.

Dams The impounding of all or part of the natural flow of any water that may involve an associated temporary or permanent structure.

Walkways A pathway or track primarily used for pedestrian access.

Appendices

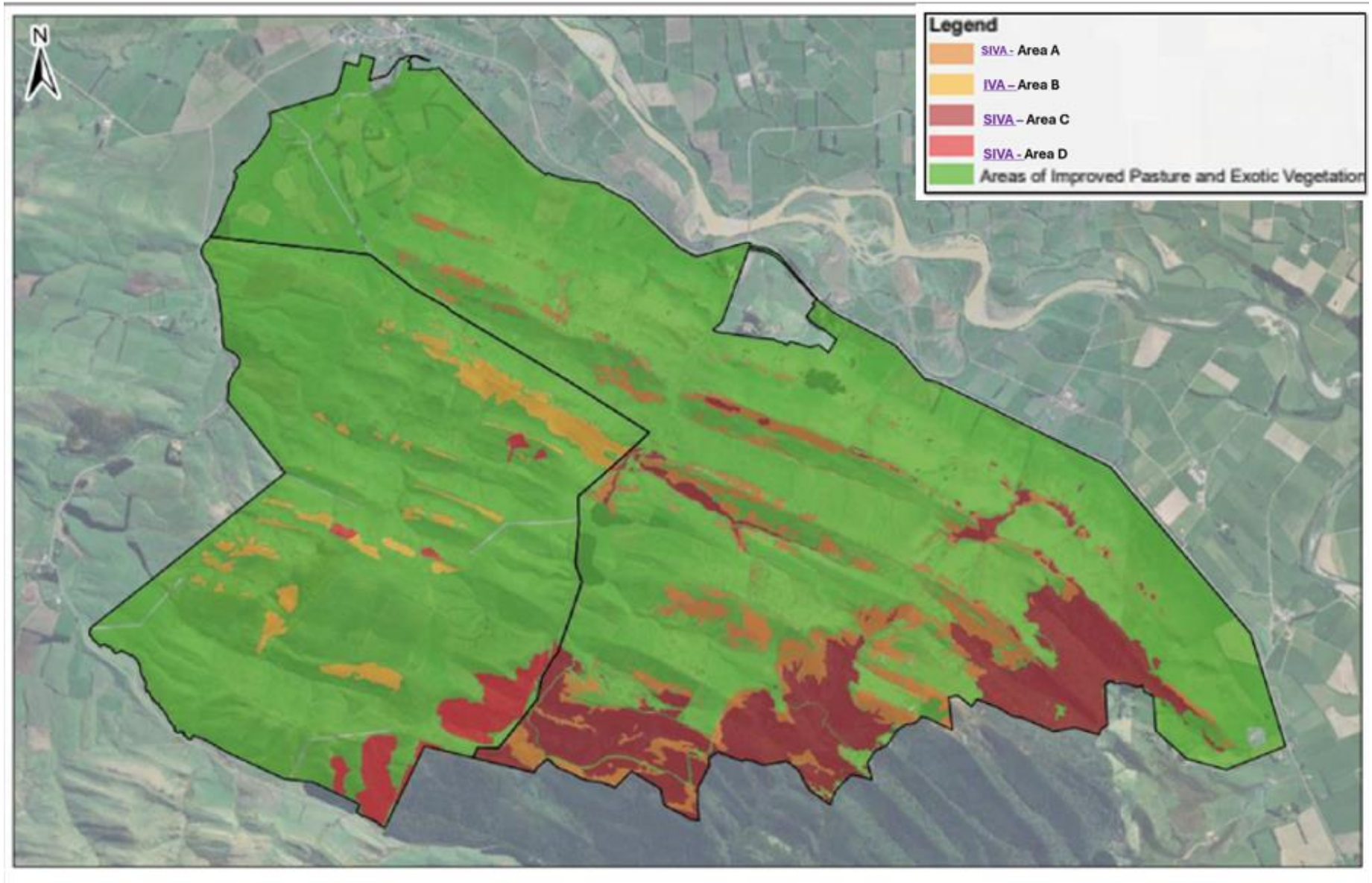
~~Appendix 4~~

~~*Italicise* Threatened or At risk (declining) in Appendix 4(1)(3), C (3) and (6)~~

~~Clause 3(2) of Appendix 4 is amended as follows:~~

~~(2) An assessment under this appendix must be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist (which, in the case of an assessment of a geothermal ecosystem, requires an ecologist with geothermal expertise)~~

Appendix 7


N
Legend
SIVA - Area A
IVA – Area B
SIVA – Area C
SIVA - Area D
Areas of Improved Pasture and Exotic Vegetation