

Natural Features and Landscapes

Topic Summary and Frequently asked questions

What is the purpose of this chapter?

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes (ONFLs) are defined as exceptional or out of the ordinary, they define the character of a place and contribute to the community's identity. ONFLs have a range of qualities that make a place visually appealing, including natural watercourses, natural landforms, and indigenous vegetation. The purpose of this chapter is to protect the values and characteristics of the Outstanding Natural Features (ONF) and Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONL) in the Gore District from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

What will this mean for my property, and will I need a resource consent?

If your property has been identified as being part an area with ONL or ONF then rules in the plan may place some constraints on what can and cannot be done with your property in the future. The level of management of the area will depend on what characteristics/values make it outstanding.

The main activities that are being considered for control through rules include:

- Quarrying/earthworks
- Clearance of indigenous vegetation
- Exotic tree planting
- Visually prominent buildings
- Riverbed and riverbank modifications

What Outstanding Natural Features/Landscapes does the Proposed Gore Plan propose?

There are two areas that have been assessed and identified under the criteria set out in the Southland Regional Policy Statement 2017 as Outstanding Natural Features/Landscapes:

1. Hokonui Hills - ONL
2. Mataura Falls/Te Au nui pihpiha kanakana - ONF

In addition, the Mataura River has been identified as a High Natural Feature with development setbacks set within the underlying zone standards.

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.

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.