



The Resource Management Act 1991 requires the Council to recognise and provide for the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as a matter of national importance.

The Council recognises that certain rateable land within the district is protected for ecological purposes and rating relief is a response to the economic limitations created by the identification and rules relating to Significant Natural Areas (SNAs).

Subject to the conditions and criteria of Rates Policy 6, landowners with SNAs are eligible for a 50% rates remission for the area identified as SNA. The Council extends this further by offering 100% rating remission for land protected for conservation purposes subject to other legal protection mechanisms such as land covenant registered on a Record of Title to protect an area for indigenous biodiversity (such as under the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Act 1977, the Reserves Act 1977 or the Conservation Act 1987, or a Ngā Whenua Rāhui Kawenata).

Conditions and criteria

- 1. The Council may remit rates for properties protected for ecological value that meet the following criteria:
a. The land must be protected either by having a significant natural area identified in the District Plan, or by way of a protective covenant, or by other legal mechanism providing similar protection to a protective covenant.
b. Where the property is protected by way of a protective covenant or by other legal mechanism providing similar protection to a protective covenant:
i. The protective covenant or other legal mechanism must meet the requirements of the District Plan for legal protection of the special ecological features to achieve the protective outcome.
ii. The protected area meets the significance criteria for protected areas in the District Plan.
iii. Evidence of the legal protection mechanism and a plan to sustainably manage the ecological values of the protected natural features must be provided with the application.

- iv. The area of land containing the protected natural features must be readily identified and able to be measured distinctly from the total area of the property.
2. Any remission of the general rate will be pro-rated to the land value of the area protected to the total area of the property, with the following criteria to assess the amount of remission:
a. Fifty per cent of the general rate on the protected area will be remitted where the protection is by virtue of identification as a significant natural area in the District Plan.
b. One hundred per cent of the general rate on the protected area will be remitted where the protection is by a protective covenant or other legal mechanism providing similar protection.
3. A property is considered to be identified in the District Plan as having a significant natural area, for the purposes of this policy, if either:
a. A significant natural area is identified on that property in an operative District Plan, or
b. A significant natural area is identified on that property in a proposed District Plan but only if:
i. no submissions in opposition have been made and the time for making submissions has expired; or
ii. all submissions in opposition, and any appeals, have been determined, withdrawn, or dismissed.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, a property becomes ineligible for a rates remission if the natural area is destroyed (or pro-rata to the area destroyed), regardless of whether a resource consent is issued or not.

Property details

Valuation no

Property Identification Number

Property address

Owner/applicant details

Owner details

First name(s)

Surname

Applicant details (if different to above)

First name(s)

Surname

Postal address

Contact phone

Contact email

SNA details

Is the natural area identified as SNA in the Proposed District Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, SNA number

(You can find this out by undertaking a property search in the eplan)

Does the land identified as SNA in the Proposed District Plan accurately include indigenous vegetation, or have some areas been cleared?

Yes

No

If the natural area is not identified as a SNA in the PDP, please provide evidence of the legal protection mechanism and a plan to sustainably manage the ecological values of the protected natural features with the application.

Signature

Name of applicant

Signature of applicant

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Property area

Percentage of property subject to SNA

Percentage of property subject to covenant

SNA land area

Covenant land area

Percentage remission