

BIODIVERSITY 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

General statement

The Matamata-Piako District is fortunate to have an outstanding natural environment. Its landscape includes the Koputai Peat Dome, Hinuera Valley, the Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges and Te Aroha Mountain. It is crucial that the extent of indigenous vegetation be protect and preserved for us all to enjoy and for future generations. Like most districts in New Zealand, a balancing act has to be achieved to preserve indigenous vegetation, wetlands

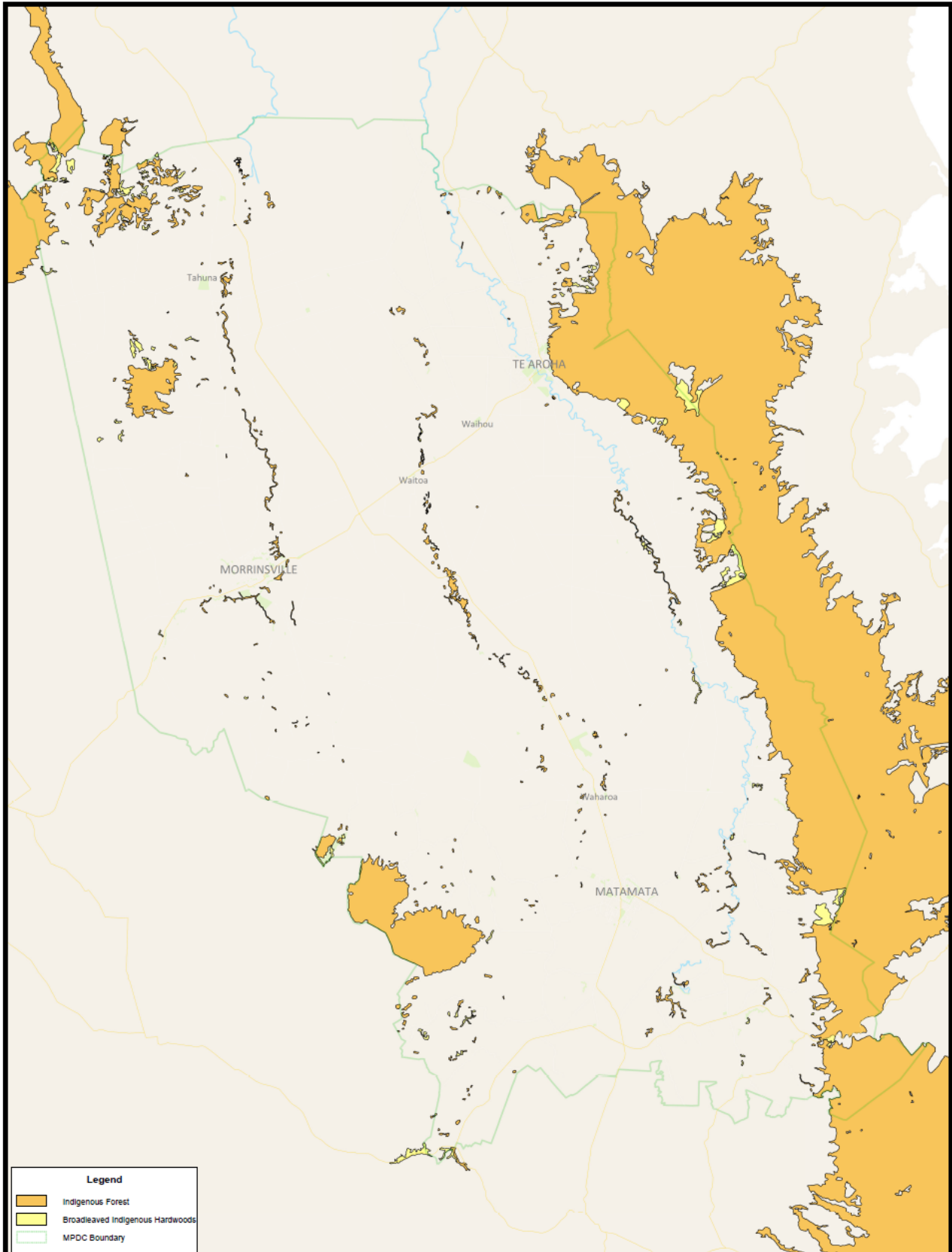


and biodiversity, while ensuring development is provided for. The primary activity affecting indigenous vegetation and biodiversity is land use changes such as drainage, land clearance, subdivision and development. Habitat destruction, isolation and land fragmentation are just some of the effects of land use changes, which we can try to mitigate.

Our District

Extent of indigenous vegetation and wetlands

There are 20, 890.8 ha of indigenous vegetation and 5393.13 ha of wetlands within the Matamata-Piako District. Our indigenous vegetation is made up of indigenous forest, indigenous hardwoods and manuka/ or kanuka. The map below outlines the extent of indigenous vegetation within our district. A large portion of our indigenous vegetation is within our Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park, Kaimai Valley on the West, Te Tapui Reserve and south aspect of Maramarua forest. Within Matamata-Piako, the Kaimai Forest Park makes up an area of 14,670 hectares, and the Kopuatai Peat Dome an area of 5,313 hectares (approximately one third of the Dome is within Matamata-Piako). In addition, Te Tapui Reserve comprises 2,382 hectares. There are also 404 hectares within Matamata-Piako that are protected by covenants from the Queen Elizabeth II Trust.



Legend

- Indigenous Forest
- Broadleaved Indigenous Hardwoods
- MPDC Boundary

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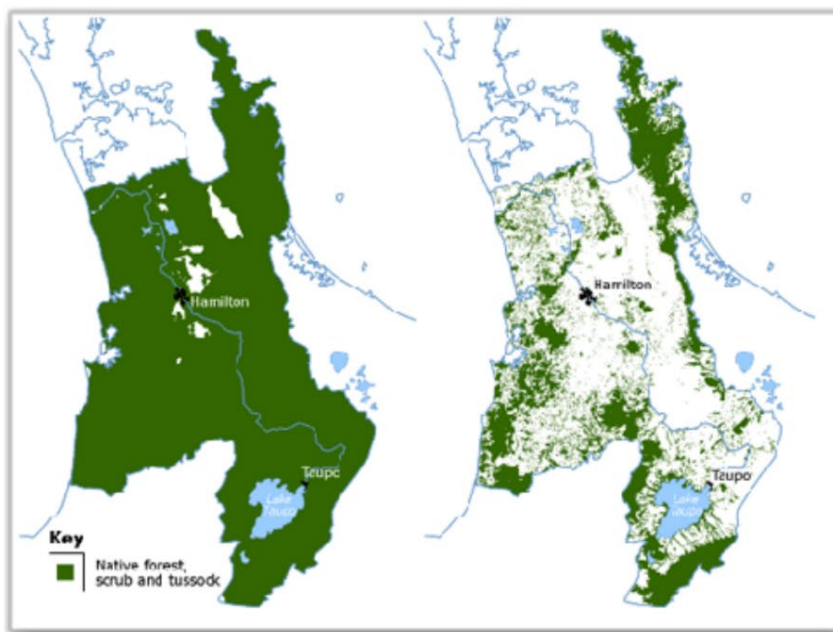
**Matamata-Piako District
Indigenous Vegetation**

Scale (when printed on A2)
1:135,000

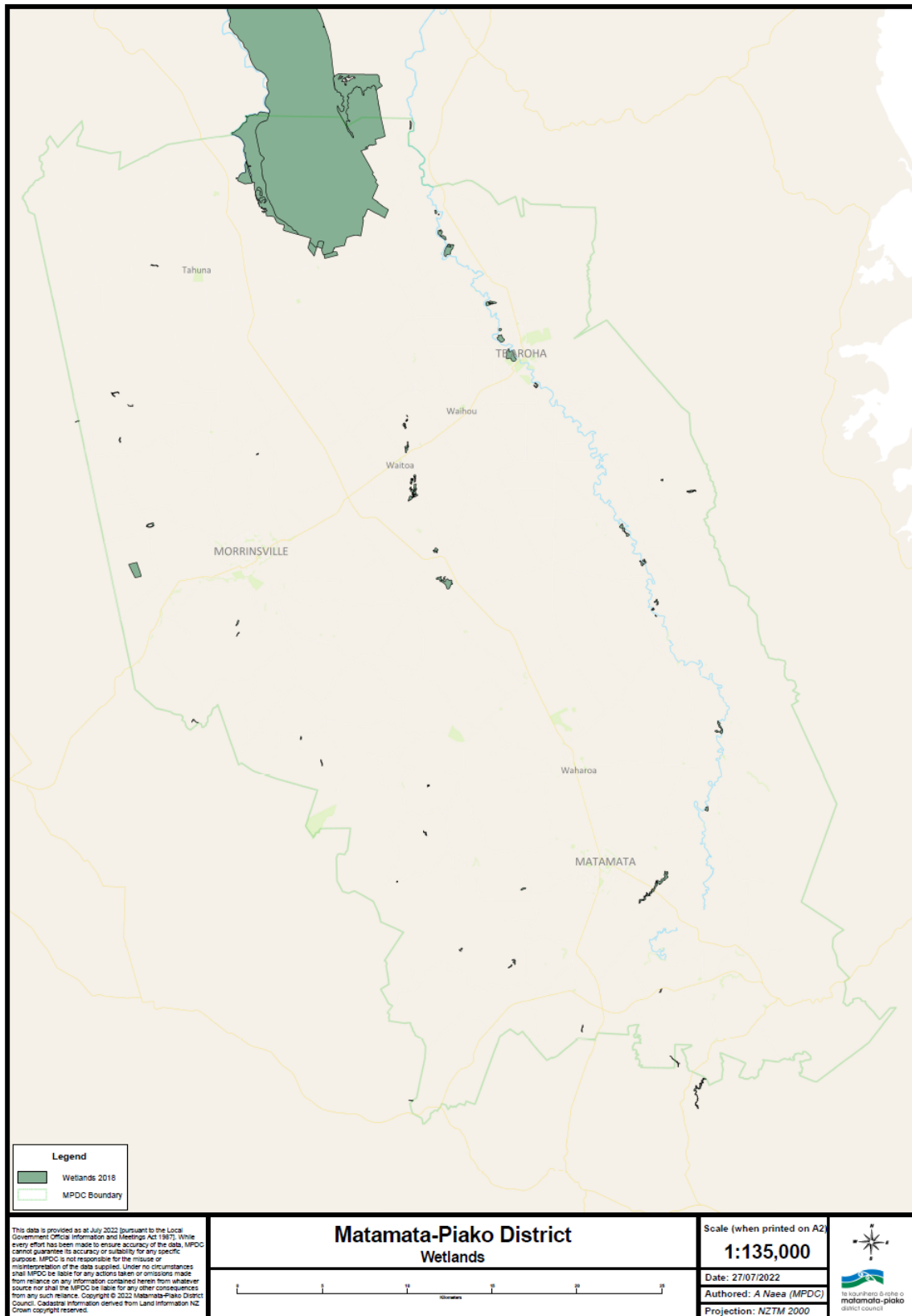
Date: 27/07/2022
 Authored: A Naea (MPDC)
 Projection: NZTM 2000

Te Kōwhiri o Te Aroha o
matamata-piako
district council

The maps below show the historic (around 1840, on the left) and current (right) extent of native forest, scrub and tussock in the Waikato Region.

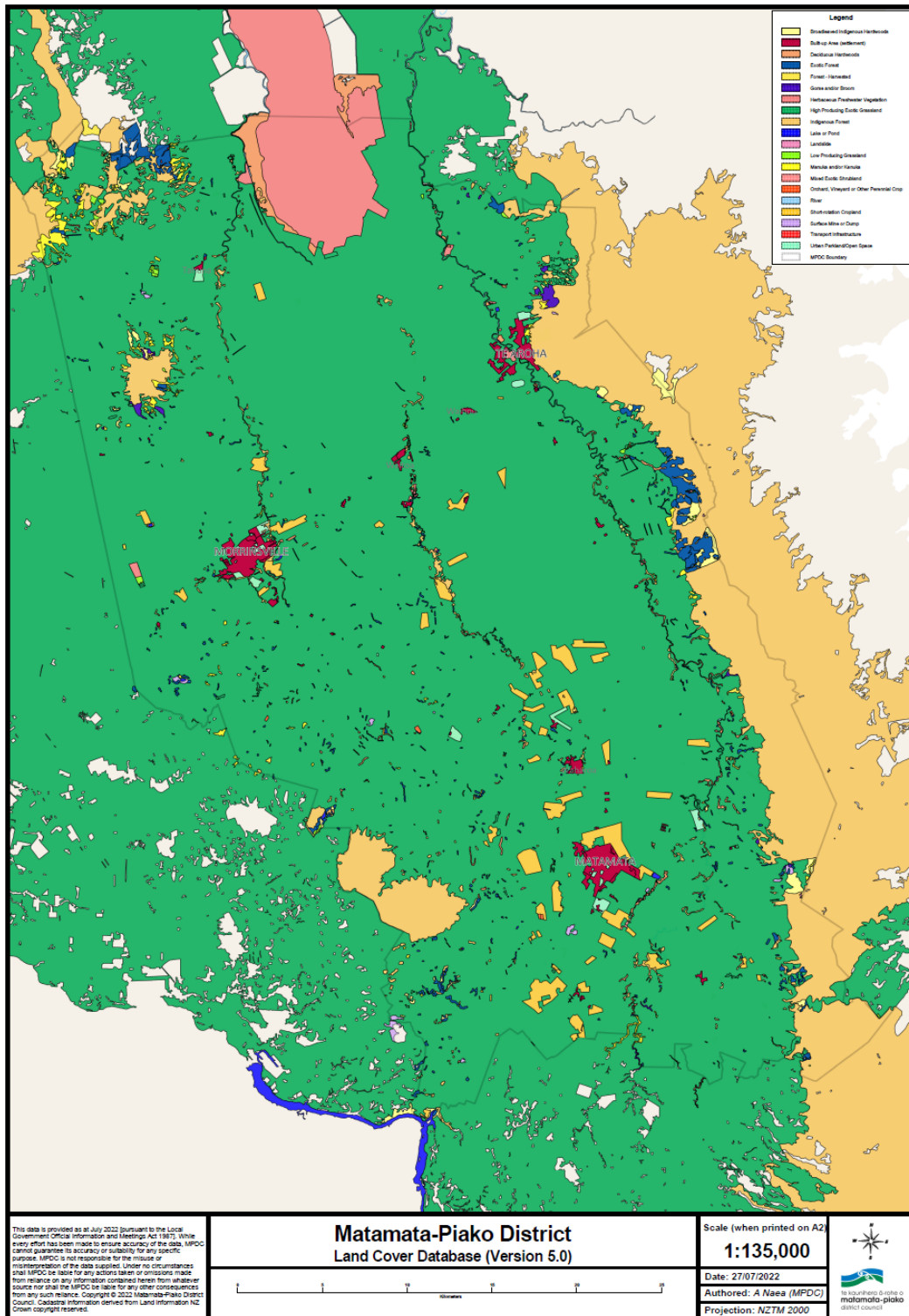


From the 2013 Waikato Regional Perception Survey, 73.5 per cent of respondents in the Matamata-Piako District were satisfied with 'community treatment of your district's natural assets'.



The map above shows that within the northern aspect of our district lies the Kopuatai wetland, which makes up the majority of the wetland hectares in our district, along with some additional hectares of wetlands located along the Waihou River.

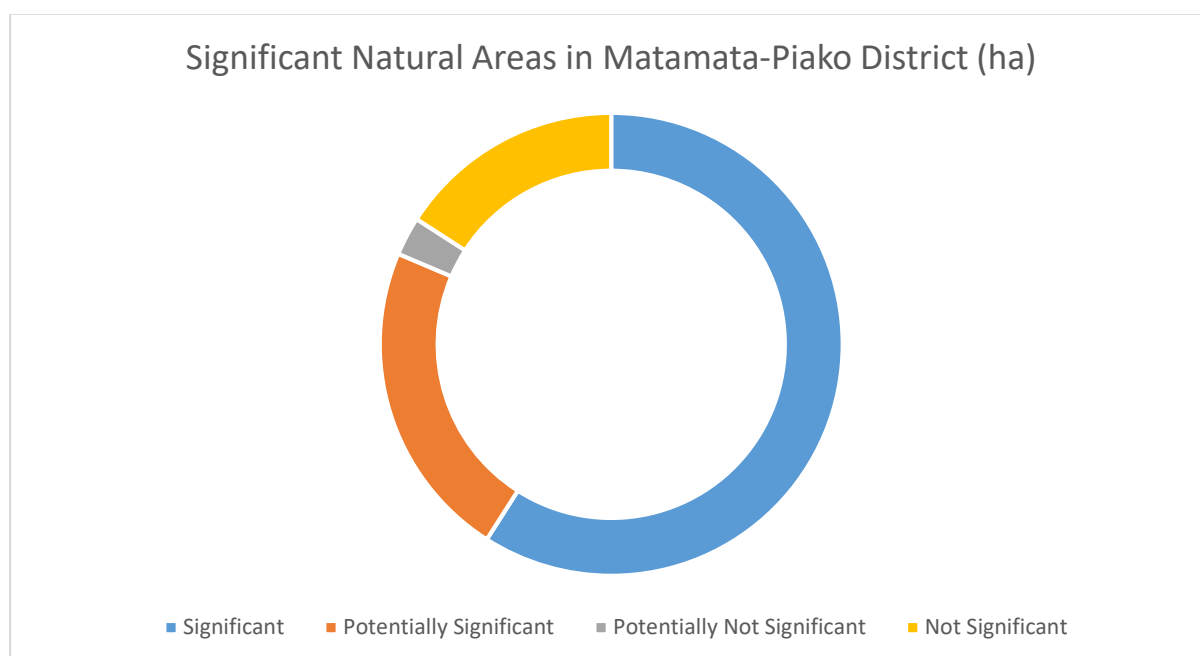
Within our district, there is also a number of other classes of biodiversity to consider the protection of. Many of these biodiversity species have been introduced to New Zealand (exotic), and have since become an integral aspect of the various ecosystems in which they exist. These include high production grasslands, exotic forests, freshwater vegetation, crops, low production grasslands, orchards and shrub land. The map below represents both indigenous and exotic biodiversity within our district, as well as our settlement areas, lakes or ponds and rivers.



Indigenous vegetation Cover of Protected Areas

There are a total of 721 ha significant natural features within the district.

In 1840, 95% of the district was covered in native vegetation; this figure is now 11.8%. A large proportion of that is held within the Kaitiaki Zone. Within our district plan, we have protected natural landscapes and features as well as four sub classes of significant natural areas – significant, potentially significant, potentially not significant and not significant. The diagram below outlines the proportion of the significant natural areas only in our district. Protecting areas, has shown to increased indigenous vegetation cover as well as support the many species that live within that ecosystem. As a result, it is positive to see that over half of these sites are considered to be significant. By protecting these features, our district has the best chance of restoring the presence of biodiversity and helps protect these unique landscapes.



Whats happening

There are pressures placed on indigenous vegetation and wetlands, resulting in reduced biodiversity. Isolated ecosystems weakens the robust indigenous biodiversity in the district, therefore through district plan provisions close monitoring of resource consents within the Kaitiaki (conservation) Zone. In addition having a focus on biodiversity corridors to connect significant areas increases the biodiversity throughout our district.

To assist in the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the District, there is a Council fund available where sites are protected. In addition the district plan provides for an additional lifestyle lot where over 1 ha of significant biodiversity is protected. There are also a number of community groups that are contributing to biodiversity fauna and flora within our district.

Name_2018	Area (sqm)	Area (ha)
High Producing Exotic Grassland	1412542353	141254.2
Built-up Area (settlement)	16994832.1	1699.483
Indigenous Forest	191431032.9	19143.1
Exotic Forest	19364952.3	1936.495
Herbaceous Freshwater Vegetation	46674169.2	4667.417
Broadleaved Indigenous Hardwoods	8744139.9	874.414
Deciduous Hardwoods	10022556.8	1002.256
Short-rotation Cropland	28144104.1	2814.41
Lake or Pond	791894.9	79.18949
Manuka and/or Kanuka	8733077.7	873.3078
Forest - Harvested	543017.9	54.30179
River	2250852.4	225.0852
Urban Parkland/Open Space	4152142.8	415.2143
Low Producing Grassland	1217287	121.7287
Surface Mine or Dump	1145628.2	114.5628
Gorse and/or Broom	2149474.5	214.9475
Transport Infrastructure	98275.9	9.82759
Orchard, Vineyard or Other Perennial Crop	232639.4	23.26394
Mixed Exotic Shrubland	179437.3	17.94373
Landslide	46560.2	4.65602
Total Area	1755458429	175545.8
Wetlands	53,931,311.30	5393.131