

THIS CHAPTER COVERS:

Historic heritage

- Heritage buildings and structures
- Archaeological sites

Significant landscapes

- New Plymouth district
- Stratford district
- South Taranaki district

Amenity values

- Regional values
- Community feedback
- Awards

Public access

- Public access to fresh water
- Public access to the coast

HERITAGE AND PLACE

For many people in the region, Taranaki's historic heritage, magnificent landscapes and amenity values contribute enormously to their quality and enjoyment of life. These features or values hold important social, emotional, historical, or cultural significance for Taranaki communities and attract large numbers of domestic and international visitors to the region.

Each of the councils in the region identifies those heritage sites, landscapes and amenity values in their boundaries that have significance for their communities and make plans to preserve and maintain these features and values. In turn, this protects and enhances the values and lifestyles of the region as a whole. All councils also work to ensure the public enjoy free, unprohibited access to the region's rivers, lakes and other public spaces.



Heritage and place



*'Heritage buildings and structures
can tell a part of the region's story.'*

Heritage and place

Heritage features refer to the wide range of archaeological, architectural, cultural or scientific resources that contribute to an understanding or appreciation of Taranaki history and culture. There are a number of such features in Taranaki that tell a part of the region's story. There are also a number of significant landscapes in the region that form an integral part of the region's identity, natural character and appeal. Features defined as amenity values across the region also contribute to people's enjoyment of the environment. Amenity values are wide and varied, including factors such as open spaces, peaceful surrounds, or access to walkways, playgrounds, or cultural events.

Various activities can impact on the heritage, landscape and amenity values in the region. Specific developments can affect heritage sites such as wāhi tapu, archaeological sites or historic buildings. Development such as subdivision and building, quarrying and roading, and logging and grazing can all affect the landscape. It can also affect neighbourhood amenity values. To what degree the impact affects the landscape depends on the environment itself and the scale and location of the activity.

In some cases development can actually enhance historic and amenity values by protecting or improving those values. For example, developing a town centre can make the area more accessible and convenient for residents to use, improving its amenity value.

One of the challenges of managing historic heritage, significant landscapes and amenity values is that they are often hard to define. There can also be a lack of information and awareness about important sites or values. For example, private landowners may not be aware of archaeological sites on their land, or sites may not be easily detected under vegetation. Perspectives on whether something has amenity value or not can also vary.

It is important to have good information about heritage sites, valued landscapes and amenities in the region so that they can be protected. Public access to the coast and to our rivers and lakes is an integral part of people's enjoyment of the environment. It is therefore also important that councils are informed about what their communities value to ensure public access is maintained.

Each district council in the region assesses the heritage features, significant landscapes, amenity values and public access options in its district to ensure these features and values are protected and maintained for generations to come.

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