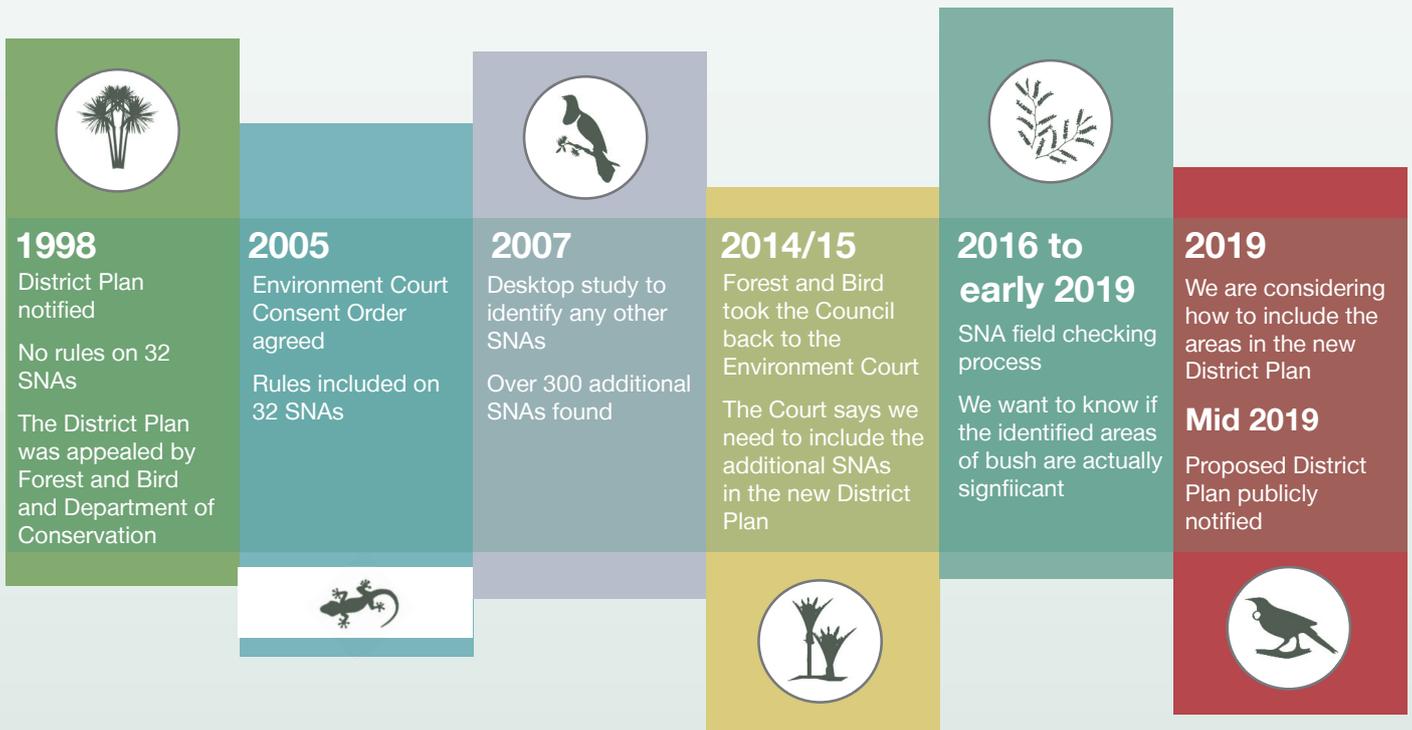


Protecting Our Native Bush

The Council has a legal obligation to protect the native bush or Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) in the district. We know that many landowners are doing a great job caring for our native bush. It is important that we strike the balance between protecting livelihoods and looking after our native bush.

The Council has been taken to the Environment Court (twice) around how we protect our native bush. The most recent Court decision says we have to consider a range of options, including rules, to enhance the protection of our native bush. The Council are working with interested parties on a range of possible options and we are really keen to hear your views.

The story so far



We have identified additional SNAs that we are considering including in the Proposed District Plan. You can see the likely SNAs on the online viewer at newplymouthnz.com/SNA

Online viewer



Feedback

If you have questions or comments on the rules (see over page) or want to talk to Council staff, please contact the Council on 06-759 6060 or enquiries@npdc.govt.nz



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
New Plymouth District Council

What does it mean to have an SNA on my property?

We have been making good progress with the SNA process, with field-checks underway in rural and urban areas. You've helped us better understand your day to day issues. We are considering an approach with workable rules, as well as providing meaningful incentives, information and advice to help you manage your bush. We want to share some recent thinking on how we think the District Plan can manage SNAs. Below are some of our ideas. What do you think?



Things that you can do in an SNA without needing to contact the Council

Small amounts of trimming and removal of native bush to keep your farming operation running.

Examples could be:

- ✓ Maintaining existing roads, tracks, stream or river crossings, network utilities, structures, drains, signs and fence lines.
- ✓ Putting a new fence around the SNA so that you can better manage stock. Note that the Council cannot require you to fence the SNA.
- ✓ Preventing any danger to human life and property.
- ✓ Managing manuka trees so they are a viable crop for the bee industry.

- ✓ Trimming and removing non-native vegetation, i.e. pine trees and weeds.
- ✓ Removing dead or diseased trees (both native and non-native).
- ✓ Anything that you are currently doing or have done in the last two years (this is called existing use rights).

Your SNA is private property and you can collect plants and animals for research and cultural purposes.



Things you should talk to the Council about if you are looking to remove or trim native bush that is not covered by the exceptions above

- Making new tracks, roads, stream or river crossings and, network utilities;
- Clearing a site for new structures and buildings, including house or cabin sites;
- Harvesting native bush that is authorised by a plan or permit under the Forests Act; or
- Any other trimming, removal of native bush (i.e. you might be anticipating to increase land for grazing).

In most cases these activities will require you to apply for a resource consent from the Council.

You may also need additional consents from the Taranaki Regional Council for vegetation clearance, land disturbance, and modifications to or erection of new structures close to waterways.

Rules

If you are looking after your bush, we want to recognise your good work by...

- Acknowledging that landowners play a principal role in sustainably managing native bush.
- Not regarding areas of native bush that have been planted as a SNA.
- Allowing for clearance within areas of native bush that are legally protected (i.e. have a QEII covenant), providing the clearance is provided for in that covenant.
- Providing funding towards fencing when you covenant or formally protect an area.
- Offering the ability to subdivide an additional allotment when you subdivide in the rural area.
- Providing rates remission for the proportion of your property in SNA (100 per cent if you have a covenanted SNA, or otherwise 50 per cent).
- Waiving resource consent fees for minor consents.
- Connecting you with other agencies to promote pest control on a voluntary basis.

Outside of the District Plan we are also working in partnership with landowners, schools and other agencies to protect our natural ecosystems for generations to come.



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**