

RU209 Vegetation planting – communications and engagement summary plan

Key messages

(as of 13 August 2018)

Background

- As part of the Selwyn District Plan Review vegetation planting related policies and rules in the current District Plan are also being reviewed.
- Within the Selwyn District Plan vegetation planting can cover plantations (any group of vegetation over four hectares not captured by other definitions), shelter belts and amenity plantings which is any group of vegetation (eg vineyards, woodlots and orchards) under four hectares.
- Plantation forestry (ie commercially harvested forestry blocks over one hectare in size) are covered by the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF). The Selwyn District Plan needs to realign to be consistent with them.
- The current District Plan also covers the spread of wilding trees ie invasive trees.
- Forestry occurs through all five areas of the Rural Zone, with plantation forestry covering approximately 9,400 hectares or almost 1.5% of the Selwyn district. The majority of this plantation forestry is located within the Malvern Hills area.
- Also relevant to this topic is the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy which became operative on 1 July 2018. This strategy identifies trees that are considered a pest and the particular areas needing protection.

Current status

- Key issues include:
 - Potential confusion between the terms introduced in the new national standards and the terms used in the current District Plan.
 - Some of the definitions used in the current District Plan are not as effective as they could be.
 - Some rules are difficult to administer, and some readjustment of these rules would improve their effectiveness. Additionally, the current rule structure does not align with the draft National Planning Standards.

About preferred option

- Key draft changes include:
 - A potential reduction in the amenity planting/plantation threshold of four hectares to one or less;
 - Redefining terms to align with the NES-PF defined ‘plantation forestry’ term;
 - Increase the restriction on the maximum width of a shelter belt from 20 metres to 30 metres;
 - Amend the wilding tree species restriction list to be consistent with regional documents;
 - All significant vegetation (except restricted species) would continue to be generally permitted unless located in an area of high landscape value (Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL) or Visual Amenity Landscapes (VAL) areas) or a noted cultural site.
 - Place restrictions on certain vegetation within ONL and VAL areas (subject to further work within the ONL/VAL topic) such as:
 - Plantation forestry being a non-complying activity within an ONL and a controlled activity within a VAL;
 - Controls on amenity plantings and plantations within ONL/VAL and cultural sites areas, depending on the nature of the planting. For example, domestic garden and native vegetation local to the area would be permitted while on the other hand there would be restrictions on woodlots or orchards).
 - Place restrictions on all plantings within a noted cultural site (this needs to be finalised together with the topic Sites and Areas of Cultural Significance).

Audiences¹

Internal	Partners	Key stakeholders ²	Landowners /occupiers ³	General public
DPC	ECan	Horticulture NZ	University of Canterbury	Selwyn ratepayers
Consent and Compliance Teams	Te Ngāi Tuāhuriri Rūnanga (represented by Mahaanui Kurataiao)	Federated Farmers	Ahuriri Farm	News media
Assets (SDC Forests)	Te Taumutu Rūnanga (represented by Mahaanui Kurataiao)	Department of Conservation	Matariki/Rayonier	Wider public
	Mahaanui Kurataiao Limited	SCION		

Legend	High level of interest/ High level of influence (“Manage closely”)	High level of interest/ Low level of influence (“Keep informed”)	Low level of interest/ high level of influence (“Keep satisfied”)	Low level of interest/ Low level of influence (“Watch only”)

¹ “...Differing levels and forms of engagement may be required during the varying phases of consideration and decision-making on an issue, and for different community groups or stakeholders. The Council will review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the engagement strategy and methods as the process proceeds.” [Significance and Engagement Policy: Adopted 26 November 2014; p.6]

² Key stakeholders are “the organisations requiring engagement and information as the preferred options for the Draft District Plan are being prepared.” (District Plan Review Community Engagement Implementation Plan; p.6))Key stakeholders “...will advocate for or against decisions that will need to be made...” and “For the District Plan Review, stakeholders include any party that can influence decisions or be influenced by decisions made on policies or rules.” (DPR Engagement Framework)

³ Landowners are “the individuals and businesses that could be affected by the proposed changes in the District Plan.” (District Plan Review Community Engagement Implementation Plan; p.6)

Engagement during review phases

Review phases	Internal	ECan	Rūnanga	Key stakeholders	Landowners/occupiers	General public
Baseline assessments						
Preferred option development						
Preferred option consultation						

2018 communications and engagement key tasks/milestones per month

(more detailed action plans to be developed for each major milestone or as required)

Audiences	Pre-August	August	September/October
ECan	Consulted with as part of the Preferred Option assessment		Preferred option report is shared and feedback sought
Rūnanga	Consulted with as part of the Preferred Option assessment		Preferred option report is shared and feedback sought
Key stakeholders	Consulted with as part of the Preferred Option assessment		Preferred option report is shared and feedback sought
Landowners/occupiers	Consulted with as part of the Preferred Option assessment		Preferred option report is shared and feedback sought
General public			General public consultation as part of rural matters
DPC		Preferred option report goes to DPC for endorsement	

Key risks and mitigation

(as of 13 August 2018)

Risk	Communications & engagement mitigation	Business mitigation
Landowners unhappy about vegetation restrictions for ONL/VAL and cultural landscapes	Clearly communicate the value of these areas, and why we are trying to protect them as per relevant legislative requirements.	