

5. Natural Environment

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5.1 PURPOSE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PROVISIONS

The City contains a range of natural areas that contain *indigenous* flora and fauna. These areas have become so depleted that the remaining examples that make up the *biodiversity of the City* require protection.

The extent and variety of these natural areas needs to be protected and their qualities maintained and, where appropriate, enhanced. This is achieved through the identification, protection, and the maintenance and enhancement of Special Ecological Areas. Special Ecological Areas are outlined within *Appendix 5A: Special Ecological Areas Register*, and identified on *the Plan Maps* (Part B).

Special Ecological Areas and areas of *indigenous* vegetation (not identified as special, but nonetheless retaining intrinsic values or contributing to the amenity of *the City*) also act as wildlife corridors. The importance of this function must be recognised and provided for in protecting these areas.

It is also recognised that all Special Ecological Areas form part of *the City* environment and have important recreational and use values. Therefore, it is anticipated that specific recreational activities are to occur within those areas, provided that the adverse effects are mitigated.

5.1.1 Purpose of the Special Ecological Area (Category 1)

Category 1 Special Ecological Areas are the best-quality or only remaining representative examples of *indigenous* flora and/or fauna within *the City*. This Category also includes intact altitudinal or geographic sequences across *the City*, or diverse assemblages of landform units, vegetation, and bioclimatic character. It is of prime importance that the factors, values and associations of these areas are protected.

5.1.2 Purpose of the Special Ecological Area (Category 2)

Category 2 Special Ecological Areas are good-quality representative examples of *indigenous* flora and/or *indigenous* fauna. They include:

- a) Relatively small areas with vegetation types or plant taxa under-represented within *the City*;
- b) Relatively large areas with features that are represented in Category 1 Special Ecological Areas, but which are, nevertheless, worthy of protection;
- c) Areas containing vegetation types which would once have been more common in the *Tauranga Ecological District* and are under-represented in Category 1 Special Ecological Areas, but which have been degraded by weed invasion, animal damage, or other similar agents;
- d) Relatively small areas which still retain their *indigenous* character or support *indigenous* fauna.

Category 2 areas often contain more weed species or younger, more common vegetation types that are not nationally rare. It is therefore more appropriate to consider mitigation of activities within this category, as long as these areas are managed in a way that will maintain and enhance the ecological values they support.

5.2 Objectives and Policies for the Natural Environment

5.2.1 General Objectives and Policies for the Natural Environment

5.2.1.1 Objective – Protection of Special Ecological Areas (Category 1)

The factors, values and associations of *the City's* Category 1 Special Ecological Areas are identified and protected.

5.2.1.1.1 Policy - Identifying Special Ecological Areas

By identifying Special Ecological Areas and their factors, values and associations by the extent that the following criteria are met:

- a) *Representativeness*. The primary criterion, based on a comparison of present vegetation cover versus past extent, diversity and pattern, naturalness, and size;
- b) *Diversity and pattern*. The diversity of ecological and physical features, and the patterns that exist within an area under consideration;
- c) *Naturalness*. The degree to which the vegetation and habitats reflect likely *natural character*;
- d) *Size and shape*. Relatively large areas (for example, compared to the mean size of remaining areas of *indigenous* vegetation in an Ecological District) are preferred as small areas can be affected strongly by edge effects. A compact single area is generally preferable to long narrow areas or small separate remnants;
- e) *Rarity and special features*. The relative rarity of physical landscape features, vegetation, habitats and species within an ecological region or district or on a national basis;
- f) *Buffering and connectivity*. The degree to which a natural area is protected or buffered by the surrounding landscape, or provides a buffer to other areas. An area may play an important role by connecting other areas of *indigenous* flora and fauna or providing a riparian buffer;
- g) *Viability*. The likelihood of an area remaining ecologically viable over time. Larger areas are generally more likely to remain viable with lower levels of management input.

5.2.1.1.2 Policy - Protection of Special Ecological Areas (Category 1)

By protecting the particular factors, values and associations that make an area a Special Ecological Area (Category 1) from the adverse effects of *subdivision*, use and development, by having regard to:

- a) The importance of the area to *indigenous* fauna (locally and regionally);
- b) The degree to which there has been cumulative loss of the extent and species diversity of this type of *ecosystem*;
- c) The rarity of the *ecosystem* or community of plant species;
- d) The presence of threatened species;
- e) The presence of species at their distributional limits;

- f) The duration and frequency of effect (for example, long-term or recurring effects);
- g) The irreversibility of effect (for example, loss of unique or rare flora or fauna, limited opportunity for remediation, the costs and technical feasibility of remediation or mitigation);
- h) The opportunities to remedy or mitigate pre-existing or potential adverse effects (for example, *ecological restoration* or enhancement), where avoidance is not practicable;
- i) The probability of effect (for example, likelihood of unforeseen effects, ability to take a precautionary approach);
- j) Cumulative effects (for example loss of multiple features, factors, values or associations);
- k) Need for, or purpose of, the works.

5.2.1.1.3 Policy – Subdivision, Use & Development Adjoining Special Ecological Areas (Category 1)

By ensuring that *subdivision*, use and development *adjoining* any Category 1 Special Ecological Area does not adversely affect the factors, values and associations of that area, by having regard to the matters outlined in *Policy 5.2.1.1.2*.

5.2.1.2 Objective – Maintenance & Enhancement of Special Ecological Areas (Category 2)

The factors, values and associations of *the City's* Category 2 Special Ecological Areas are maintained and enhanced.

5.2.1.2.1 Policy – Identifying Special Ecological Areas (Category 2)

By identifying and assessing Special Ecological Areas (Category 2) by the degree to which they contain factors, values and associations listed in *Policy 5.2.1.1.1*.

5.2.1.2.2 Policy – Maintaining & Enhancing Special Ecological Areas (Category 2)

By maintaining and enhancing the particular factors, values and associations that make an area a Special Ecological Area (Category 2), from the adverse effects of inappropriate *subdivision*, use and development, by having regard to:

- a) The character and degree of modification, damage, loss or destruction that will result from the activity;
- b) The duration and frequency of effect (for example long-term or recurring effects);
- c) The magnitude or scale of effect (for example number of *sites* affected, spatial distribution, landscape context);
- d) Cumulative effects (for example loss of multiple features or values);
- e) Need for, or purpose of, the works.

5.2.1.3 Objective – Maintenance and Enhancement of Areas of Indigenous Vegetation

The factors, values and associations of areas of *indigenous* vegetation, not identified as a special ecological area, continue to contribute to the intrinsic values of *ecosystems* and/or the maintenance and enhancement of *the City's* amenity values.

5.2.1.3.1 Policy - Identifying Areas of Indigenous Vegetation

By identifying and assessing areas of *indigenous* vegetation, not identified as a special ecological area, by the degree to which they contain factors, values and associations listed in *Policy 5.2.1.1.1*.

5.2.1.3.2 Policy – Maintaining & Enhancing Areas of Indigenous Vegetation

By maintaining and enhancing the particular factors, values and associations of areas of *indigenous* vegetation, not identified as a special ecological area, from the adverse effects of inappropriate *subdivision*, use and development by having regard to:

- a) The area's contribution to the intrinsic value of *ecosystems* within *the City*;
- b) The area's contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values of *the City*.

5.2.1.4 Objective – Management of Access to and Within Special Ecological Areas

Public access to and within Special Ecological Areas is provided.

5.2.1.4.1 Policy – Management of Access to and Within Special Ecological Areas

By providing for public access, and associated recreational facilities to and within Special Ecological Areas where that access does not adversely affect the health, viability or factors, values and associations of that area.

5.2.1.5 Objective – Maintenance of Existing Network Utilities

The maintenance of existing *network utilities* within and *adjoining* Special Ecological Areas is provided for.

5.2.1.5.1 Policy – Maintenance of Existing Network Utilities

By providing for the maintenance of existing *network utilities* within and *adjoining* Special Ecological Areas where that maintenance does not adversely affect the health, viability or factors, values and associations of that area.

5.2.1.6 Objective - Reduction of Habitat Fragmentation and Isolation

Habitat fragmentation and isolation of natural areas throughout *the City* is reduced.

5.2.1.6.1 Policy - Reduction of Habitat Fragmentation and Isolation

By ensuring *subdivision*, use and development provides for the maintenance and enhancement of areas of remnant *indigenous* vegetation, including any Special Ecological Area, where their provision is likely to:

- a) Improve the *natural character* of the *coastal environment*, *wetlands*, rivers and streams;
- b) Improve the viability of a habitat or its dependant fauna;
- c) Maintain or enhance the health, viability or factors, values and associations of those areas;
- d) Reduce habitat fragmentation and isolation of identified Special Ecological Areas.

5.2.1.6.2 Policy – Migration of Natural Features

By recognising that natural features may migrate inland as a result of dynamic coastal and harbour processes and climate change, and to take account of this in providing for the preservation of *natural character* when *subdivision*, use or development in the *coastal environment* is being assessed.

5.3 Activity Status Rules

5.3.1 Activities Occurring Within and Adjacent to a Special Ecological Area

All activities occurring within or *adjacent* to a Special Ecological Area, in accordance with *Appendix 5A: Special Ecological Area Register* shall have the status identified in *Table 5.3A*. Symbols used in *Table 5.3A* have the meaning described in *Table 1B: Activity Status*.

Table 5.3A: Status for Activities Within or Adjoining any Special Ecological Area

Use/Activity	Relevant Rule	Activities within Category 1 SEA	Activities within 5m of any Category 1 SEA	Activities within Category 2 SEA
<p>Activities on land zoned <i>Open Space</i> that are listed as a Permitted Activity within <i>the Plan</i>, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Clearance of <i>indigenous</i> vegetation (except for the trimming and pruning of <i>indigenous</i> vegetation on or directly <i>adjoining</i> existing pedestrian and cycle tracks to maintain the use of those tracks which is a Permitted Activity); b) <i>Construction</i> of new pedestrian and cycle tracks, including pathways, bridging, boardwalks and steps; c) <i>Construction</i>, erection or placement of new <i>buildings</i> (unless otherwise provided for in <i>Table 5.3A</i>); d) New <i>public recreational facilities and activities</i>; e) New carparks and access roads. 	5.4	P	P	P
<p>The maintenance of existing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Minor public recreational facilities and activities</i>; b) Surf life-saving activities, facilities and <i>structures</i>, including <i>buildings</i> and clubrooms; c) <i>Public recreational facilities and activities</i>; d) Carparks and access roads; e) Public roads. 	5.4	P	P	P
Maintenance to existing <i>stormwater reserves</i> .	5.4	P	P	P

Use/Activity	Relevant Rule	Activities within Category 1 SEA	Activities within 5m of any Category 1 SEA	Activities within Category 2 SEA
Construction of new stormwater reserves.	-	RD (subject to Rule 5.5)	P (subject to Rule 5.4)	RD (subject to Rule 5.5)
Maintenance of existing network utilities.	5.4	P	P	P
Trimming and pruning of vegetation necessary to protect electrical lines required to meet the <i>Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003</i> .	-	P	P	P
Erection of structures in the Road Zone.	-	P	P	P
Construction of new public pedestrian and cycle tracks including pathways, bridging, boardwalks and steps on land zoned Open Space.	-	RD (subject to Rule 5.5)	RD (subject to Rule 5.5)	P (subject to Rule 5.4)
Clearance of indigenous vegetation on land zoned Open Space (unless otherwise provided for as Permitted in Table 5.3A).	5.5	RD	RD	RD
Construction, erection and/or placement of new buildings and structures (not including public toilets) on land zoned Open Space.	-	NC (subject to Rule 5.7)	D (subject to Rule 5.6)	RD (subject to Rule 5.5)
Construction, erection and/or placement of public toilets on land zoned Open Space.	-	NC (subject to Rule 5.7)	D (subject to Rule 5.6)	P (subject to Rule 5.4)
All activities that involve: a) Alteration, construction erection, placement and/or alteration of any building or structure (not otherwise provided for in Table 5.3A); b) The clearance of indigenous flora.	-	NC (subject to Rule 5.7)	D (subject to Rule 5.6)	D (subject to Rule 5.6)
Construction, erection and/or placement of minor structures on private property.	-	NC (subject to Rule 5.7)	P (subject to Rule 5.4)	D (subject to Rule 5.6)

5.4 Permitted Activity Rules

Note: Where an activity does not comply with a Permitted Activity Rule it shall be considered a Restricted Discretionary Activity, unless stated otherwise.

5.4.1 Reinstatement & Restoration

- a) All activities shall ensure that reinstatement and restoration, including *ecological restoration* of the area disturbed is undertaken using *indigenous* vegetation species found within the Special Ecological Area;
- b) Reinstatement and restoration, including *ecological restoration* planting, shall be established in accordance with accepted ecological practice within 6 months of completion of work.

5.4.2 Rules in other Sections of the Plan

Activities within or *adjoining* any Special Ecological Area shall also comply with these sections of *the Plan*:

- a) The provisions of *Chapter 4 – General Rules*;
- b) The provisions of *Chapter 7 - Heritage*;
- c) The provision of *Chapter 8 - Natural Hazards*;
- d) The provisions of *Chapter 9 - Hazardous Substances and Contaminated Land*;
- e) The provisions of *Chapter 11 – Financial Contributions*;
- f) The provisions of *Chapter 12 - Subdivision, Infrastructure and Services, Section 12.16 - Infrastructure and Services*;
- g) The provisions of the underlying Zone;
- h) The provisions of any Plan Area.

5.5 Restricted Discretionary Activity Rules

The following are Restricted Discretionary Activities:

- a) Any activity that does not comply with one or more of the Permitted Activity Rules;
- b) Any activity listed as Restricted Discretionary in *Table 5.3A*.

5.5.1 Restricted Discretionary Activity - Standards and Terms

Note: Any activity that does not comply with Rule 5.5.1 – Restricted Discretionary Activity – Standards and Terms shall be considered a Discretionary Activity.

Restricted Discretionary Activities shall comply with the following Standards and Terms:

- a) A qualified ecologist shall prepare an ecological assessment for any application for resource consent within any Special Ecological Area.

- b) The assessment shall have particular regard to the factors, values and associations that make the area a Special Ecological Area, considering those matters in outlined in *Appendix 5A: Special Ecological Area Register*.

5.5.2 Restricted Discretionary Activity - Matters of Discretion

The *Council* shall restrict the exercise of its discretion to:

- a) Whether the proposal would be consistent with the objectives and policies in *Chapter 5 - Natural Environment*;
- b) The *height*, scale, and location of any *building*, *structure*, or *sign*;
- c) The use of materials on the exterior of any *building* or *structure* including the use of colour;
- d) The nature, location and extent of any proposed *earthworks*;
- e) The location and design of access, parking areas, *infrastructure* and *services* or fences;
- f) Whether the proposed activity, *building* or *structure* will adversely affect the *indigenous* flora and fauna values and whether retention of *indigenous* and exotic vegetation, reinstatement of *indigenous* vegetation or provision of new *indigenous* planting is required.

5.5.3 Notification

Any application for a resource consent made under *Rule 5.5 - Restricted Discretionary Activity Rules* does not need to be notified, or served on affected persons

5.6 Discretionary Activity Rules

The following are Discretionary Activities:

- a) Any activity described as a Restricted Discretionary Activity that does not comply with a Restricted Discretionary Activity Standard and Term;
- b) Any activity which is not listed as Permitted, Restricted Discretionary or a Non-Complying Activity;
- c) Any activity listed as a Discretionary Activity in *Table 5.3A*.

5.6.1 Assessment of Discretionary Activities

In considering a Discretionary Activity the *Council's* discretion is unrestricted. The *Council* will consider any relevant matter with particular regard to the relevant objectives and policies of *the Plan*.

5.7 Non-Complying Activity Rules

Any activity listed as Non-Complying in *Table 5.3A* is deemed to be a Non-Complying Activity.

APPENDIX 5A: SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL AREA (SEA) REGISTER

Note: For greater detail on each Special Ecological Area and its factors, values and associations, refer to Wildland Consultants (2000, 2005 and 2009) Indigenous Biodiversity of Tauranga District – State of the Environment Reporting. Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 309, 1256 & 2300. Prepared for Tauranga City Council.

Note: The Plan Maps (Part B) include Special Ecological Areas that are located below Mean High Water Springs and within the Coastal Marine Area

Special Ecological Area - Category 1

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
R28, R29, R19, R30	1	Wairoa River	Flats; scarps, toeslopes and associated steep slopes; undulating low hills	<p>A large representative example of estuarine vegetation with small areas of freshwater wetlands.</p> <p>The majority of this SEA is identified as having outstanding wildlife value. Two acutely threatened, one chronically threatened, and three at-risk bird species have been recorded. The Wairoa River is of regional conservation significance, comprising a good-quality representative vegetation sequence, characteristic of the Tauranga Ecological District. This SEA also contains representative examples of freshwater wetland vegetation adjacent to a river channel and a relatively large and diverse area of estuarine vegetation which is of regional conservation significance.</p>
R11, R12, R19, R20	2	Matua Estuary-York Park	Flats	<p>A large representative example of estuarine vegetation with contiguous palustrine wetlands characteristic of the vegetation of the Tauranga Ecological District.</p> <p>This SEA is of high wildlife value. Australasian bittern, banded rail and North Island fernbird have been recorded.</p> <p>It is a large and relatively diverse natural area and is of regional conservation significance.</p>

Special Ecological Area - Category 1

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
R21, R22, R32, R33	3	Waikareao Estuary 1	Scarps, toeslopes and associated steep slopes; undifferentiated terrace; flats	<p>This SEA is a relatively large example of estuarine vegetation with contiguous palustrine and terrestrial communities characteristic of the vegetation of the Tauranga Ecological District.</p> <p>A diverse range of birdlife, including banded rail and North Island fernbird are present. The SEA is of high wildlife value.</p> <p>The SEA has high botanical conservation value, several regionally uncommon plant species occur here.</p> <p>It is a large and relatively diverse natural area and is of regional conservation significance.</p>
R52, R53, R65, R66, R80	4	Waimapu Estuary	Flats; scarps, toeslopes and associated steep slopes; undifferentiated terrace	<p>This SEA contains a high-quality representative example of a palustrine wetland contiguous with saltmarsh characteristic of vegetation of the Tauranga Ecological District.</p> <p>The SEA contains the best remaining example of <i>Coprosma propinqua</i> subsp. <i>propinqua</i> shrubland within Tauranga Harbour.</p> <p>The area has high wildlife value. Banded rail and North Island fernbird are present, and white-fronted tern and common coastal birds frequent the area.</p> <p>It is a large and diverse natural area and is of national conservation significance.</p>
R65, R66	5	Poike	Flats; scarps, toeslopes and associated steep slopes; undifferentiated terrace.	<p>This SEA contains a relatively extensive, diverse example of estuarine vegetation and associated palustrine wetlands. The area is contiguous with, and complementary to, Waimapu Estuary (Site 4).</p> <p>This SEA has high wildlife value. Banded rail, spotless crane and North Island fernbird are present, and white-fronted tern and common coastal birds frequent the area.</p> <p>It is a medium-sized diverse natural area and is of regional conservation significance.</p>

Special Ecological Area - Category 1

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
R97, R98	6	Waitao Stream	Flats; undifferentiated terrace	<p>This SEA is a relatively extensive good-quality example of estuarine vegetation with contiguous palustrine vegetation.</p> <p>It is an area of high wildlife value. Banded rail and North Island fernbird are present. Waitao Stream is adjacent to Te Maunga wader roost.</p> <p>It is a large and diverse natural area and is of regional conservation significance.</p>
R1	7	Mauao	Very steep hill	<p>This SEA contains a relatively large area of pohutukawa forest, with numerous types of indigenous scrub and tree land on the western slopes.</p> <p>It contains a diverse range of vegetation/habitat types and numerous plant species of limited distribution within the Tauranga Ecological District, including one nationally threatened species.</p> <p>It contains the most extensive and highest-quality area of pohutukawa forest within Tauranga City and the Tauranga Ecological District.</p> <p>Mauao is home to a breeding colony of grey-faced petrel and northern little blue penguin (chronically threatened).</p> <p>It is a large area comprising a diverse array of coastal forest types which are now uncommon in Tauranga Ecological District, on a nationally important geological feature. Mauao is of national conservation significance.</p>
R2	8	Motuotau Island	Hill	<p>Motuotau Island SEA is a high-quality representative example of pohutukawa forest, once characteristic of coastal headlands and cliffs in the Tauranga Ecological District, but which is now greatly reduced in extent.</p> <p>The island has high botanical value, three regionally uncommon species occur in this coastal forest.</p> <p>The island is of high wildlife value. Reef heron (acutely threatened – nationally vulnerable), red-billed gulls and grey-faced petrel breed here.</p> <p>It is of national conservation significance.</p>

Special Ecological Area - Category 1

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
R27, R38, R39, R48	9	Otira Sand Dunes	Sand dune; oceanside sand beaches	<p>This SEA contains indigenous sand dune vegetation of relatively high quality, including continuous vegetation sequences from incipient foredunes to transgressing dunefields.</p> <p>This area has high botanical conservation values; two chronically threatened dune plants are present. This SEA is of moderate wildlife value. Katipo are present in the dunes.</p>
R48, R59, R60	10	Papamoa Sand Dunes	Sand dune; oceanside sand beaches	<p>This SEA contains a high-quality, large example of indigenous sand dune vegetation characteristic of the Tauranga Ecological District that includes continuous vegetation sequences from incipient foredunes to transgressing dunefields.</p> <p>The area has high botanical values. Two chronically threatened dune plant species occur here, including sand pimelea – one of three remaining mainland populations in the Tauranga Ecological District. Two other regionally uncommon plant species are also present.</p> <p>This SEA is also of significant wildlife value. Katipo are present in the dunes and a threatened land snail has been recorded in the past.</p> <p>It is an area of regional conservation significance.</p>
R97, R99	11	Kaituna Sand and Dunes Wetlands	Sand dune; oceanside sand beaches	<p>This SEA is a large representative example of indigenous sand dune vegetation containing a diverse array of plant communities on a dynamic dune sequence from incipient foredunes to actively migrating transgressive dunefields and dune wetlands.</p> <p>This SEA is of high botanical value, seven threatened plant species occur here, including one nationally endangered species.</p> <p>This SEA is of high wildlife value. Australasian bittern are present in the wetlands and katipo in the dunes.</p> <p>It is a large and diverse natural area containing a range of botanical and wildlife values and is of national conservation significance.</p>

Special Ecological Area - Category 1

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
R99	37	Elizabeth Wetland	Sand dune	<p>This SEA is a good-quality representative example of a dune lake in the Bay of Plenty Region. This is the only remaining dune lake on the mainland within the Tauranga Ecological District.</p> <p>This SEA has high wildlife value. Australasian bittern are known to breed here.</p> <p>It is an area of regional conservation significance.</p>

Special Ecological Area - Category 2

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
R21, R22, R32, R33	12	Motuopae Island	Intertidal flats; hills(s)	This SEA is a representative example of estuarine and terrestrial vegetation centred on and around a small island in Waikareao Estuary. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R21, R32, R33	13	Waikareao Estuary 2	Flats; toeslopes and associated steep slopes; undulating low hills; scarps and steep slopes	This SEA is a relatively large area of estuarine vegetation with contiguous palustrine vegetation. This area is contiguous with, and complementary to, Waikareao Estuary 1 (Category 1). This SEA has high wildlife values. Banded rail and North Island fernbird are present. This SEA has botanical values, containing a diverse array of community types along a gradient from estuarine to palustrine vegetation. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R51, R42, R52, R64	14	Kopurererua Stream Wetland	Primarily River flats, bordered by undifferentiated terrace and flat undulating/undulating low hills	This SEA is a large palustrine wetland. Wetlands have been greatly reduced in extent in the Tauranga Ecological District. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R52, R53	15	Waimapu Estuary Walkway	Flats; toeslopes and associated steep slopes; scarps and steep slopes	This SEA is a relatively diverse area of estuarine, palustrine and terrestrial indigenous vegetation which contributes to the overall ecological values of Tauranga Harbour.
R80	17	Waimapu Stream Wetland	Flats; toeslopes and associated steep slopes; scarps and steep slopes	This SEA contains a small area of Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua shrubland within a complex of estuarine and associated palustrine wetlands characteristic of the Tauranga Ecological District. One regionally uncommon plant species occurs here. The area has significant wildlife values. North Island fernbird are present. It is an area of local conservation significance

Special Ecological Area - Category 2

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
R54, R66	18	Hairini	Flats; toeslopes and associated slopes scarp, and steep	This SEA contains three representative areas of estuarine and associated palustrine vegetation in close proximity. The vegetation is characteristic of the Tauranga Ecological District. The area has significant wildlife values. It is a neap tide roost for a range of wading birds. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R54, R67	19	Kaitemako Stream Mouth	Flats; toeslopes and associated slopes; undulating low hills scarp, and steep	This SEA contains a relatively large, diverse, and representative area of estuarine vegetation with contiguous palustrine vegetation characteristic of the Tauranga Ecological District. The area has significant wildlife values. Banded rail and North Island fernbird are present. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R67, R68, R82,	20	Welcome Bay	Undulating low hills	This SEA is a moderate-sized representative, area of diverse estuarine vegetation with contiguous areas of palustrine vegetation characteristic of the Tauranga Ecological District. It is an area of local conservation significance
R68	21	Tye Park Inlet	Undulating low hills	This SEA is a small tidal inlet comprising estuarine vegetation. The area has significant wildlife values. North Island fernbird have been recorded here. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R55	22	Ranginui Road	Undulating low hills	This SEA is a small area of estuarine vegetation with associated palustrine vegetation which contributes to the overall ecological values of Tauranga Harbour. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R97, R98	23	Ngapeke Road	Undulating low hills; undifferentiated terrace	This SEA is a relatively large and diverse area of wetland containing a range of both estuarine and palustrine vegetation. The wetland vegetation is of significant wildlife value. Banded rail and North Island

Special Ecological Area - Category 2

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
				<p>fernbirds have both been recorded here.</p> <p>It is an area of local conservation significance.</p>
R37, R97	24	Mangatawa	Sand dune	<p>This SEA is a moderate sized area of estuarine vegetation.</p> <p>The area is of significant wildlife value. Banded rail and North Island fernbirds have both been recorded here.</p> <p>It is an area of local conservation significance.</p>
R35, R36, R37	25	Rangataua Bay	Undifferentiated terrace; flats	<p>This SEA is a large, diverse area of wetland vegetation containing a range of estuarine vegetation types and small example of palustrine vegetation.</p> <p>The area is of significant wildlife value. Banded rail and North Island fernbird are present.</p>
R45, R97	26	Oruamatua	Scarps, toeslopes and associated steep slopes; undifferentiated terrace	<p>This SEA is a large area of terrestrial vegetation (tree land) with a relatively high component of indigenous plant species on the scarps, toeslopes and associated steep slopes.</p>
R34, R35	27	Waipu Bay 1	Flats; toeslopes and associated slopes; scarps and steep slopes	<p>This SEA is a relatively large and diverse area comprising both estuarine and palustrine vegetation, which contributes to the overall ecological value of Tauranga Harbour.</p> <p>The area is of significant wildlife value. Banded rail and North Island fernbird have been recorded.</p>
R35	28	Waipu Bay 2	Flats	<p>This SEA is a narrow strip of estuarine vegetation which contributes to the overall ecological value of Tauranga Harbour.</p> <p>This area is of significant wildlife value. Banded rail have been recorded.</p>
R24, R35	29	Waipu Bay 3	Flats; toeslopes and associated slopes; scarps and steep slopes	<p>This SEA incorporates 6 narrow examples of estuarine vegetation in close proximity, located along the western margin of Waipu Bay which contributes to the overall ecological value of Tauranga Harbour.</p>

Special Ecological Area - Category 2

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
			slopes	This area is of significant wildlife value.
R24	30	Waipu Bay 4	Sand dune	This SEA is a small example of estuarine vegetation which contributes to the overall ecological value of Tauranga Harbour. This area is of significant wildlife value.
R24	31	Waipu Bay 5	Sand dune; flats	This SEA is a relatively large area of estuarine and palustrine vegetation, which contributes to the overall ecological value of Tauranga Harbour. This area is of significant wildlife value.
R1	32	Mauao	Very steep hill	This SEA contains numerous small areas of terrestrial vegetation (forest, tree land and scrub), generally on the lower southern and eastern slopes of Mauao. This area is contiguous with and complimentary to the special ecological area - Mauao 1 (SEA # 7). It contains examples of pohutukawa forest on the toeslopes of Mauao, adjacent to the shore. Two regionally uncommon plant species are present. This area is of significant wildlife value. Northern little blue penguin breed here. It is an area of regional conservation value.
R2	33	Moturiki Island	Hill	This SEA contains a diverse range of secondary terrestrial vegetation, dominated by scrub on the island. This area has moderate botanical conservation value. Coastal mahoe occurs in pohutukawa scrub on the island. This area is of significant wildlife value. Northern little blue penguin breed here. It is an area of local conservation significance.
R1, R2, R101	34	Hopukiore	Hill	This SEA contains a small representative example of pohutukawa forest on a small hill that has historical and archaeological values.

Special Ecological Area - Category 2

Plan Map Reference	SEA Number	Area Identification	Landform Unit(s)	General Description of Factors, Values and Associations
				It is a site of local conservation significance.
R1, R2, R3, R4, R10, R17, R18, R26, R27, R48, R60, R61, R74, R75	35	Shark Alley to Kaituna Spit Sand Dunes	Sand dune, oceanside sand beaches	<p>This SEA is a large and diverse area of sand dune vegetation dominated by indigenous species.</p> <p>One regionally uncommon plant species is present.</p> <p>It is an area of regional conservation significance.</p>
R99, R100	36	Kaituna River Wetlands	Sand dune	<p>This SEA contains 4 moderately sized areas of palustrine vegetation adjacent to, or in close proximity to, the Kaituna River.</p> <p>This area includes some of the last small remnants of the Kawa Swamp which was once a large wetland covering much of the Maketu Plains.</p> <p>It is an area of regional conservation significance.</p>
R99	38	Bell Road Oxbow	Alluvial plains	<p>This SEA contains an example of an ox-bow lake associated with the Kaituna River. Ox-bow lakes are now a rare feature on the Kaituna River Plains.</p> <p>It is an area of local conservation significance.</p>
R100	39	Kaituna River Mouth	Sand dune	This SEA contains a small example of sand dune vegetation at the mouth of the Kaituna River, which provides a roosting site for wading birds.
R53	40	Motuopuhi Island	Hill	<p>This SEA is a small inner harbour island. One at-risk plant species grows here.</p> <p>It is an area of local conservation significance.</p>
R24	41	Waipu Bay	Sand dune; flats	This SEA is a small area of palustrine wetland vegetation which contributes to the overall ecological value of Tauranga Harbour.
R34	42	Waipu Bay	Undulating low hills	This SEA is a small area of palustrine wetland which contributes to the overall ecological value of Tauranga Harbour.