



Wāhi Tūpuna (Sites of Significance to Iwi)

Chapter 39

Wāhi Tūpuna are landscapes and places that embody the relationship of mana whenua and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu (sacred places), and other taoka (treasure). This chapter aims to identify and recognise these areas to ensure that cultural values can be appropriately managed and protected.

Our district contains many wāhi tūpuna areas that hold particular cultural and ancestral significance to Kāi Tahu. Because of this, a strategic approach was set out in Stage One of the Proposed District Plan to identify and map these areas. This is also a statutory directive in various pieces of legislation, including the Local Government Act, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the Resource Management Act.

HOW THE AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND MAPPED

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) has worked closely with Kāi Tahu rūnaka consultancies Aukaha and Te Ao Marama to identify and map wāhi tūpuna across our district. Whilst specific wāhi tūpuna areas and values have been identified, it is acknowledged that Kāi Tahu regard the whole of the district as ancestral land.

“While we consider the whole of the district to be ancestral land, these sites are highly significant to us as mana whenua. We have mapped them to allow people to easily identify areas of importance to Kāi Tahu”.

*ŌTĀKOU UPOKO
EDWARD ELLISON*

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED

Chapter 39 is a new chapter in the Proposed District Plan that will apply across the district. It is essentially a framework that will help guide developers, plan users and Council planners in ensuring local cultural values are maintained.

Wāhi Tūpuna areas will be included in District Plan maps and a set of values and recognised threats for each area will be listed as part of the chapter. Values include traditional settlements, pā sites, and mahika kai (food gathering sites). Threats include activities affecting water quality, earthworks, and exotic species including wilding pines.

Where a development includes activities that are identified as a possible threat, we encourage early consultation with Kāi Tahu before any work begins. In some instances, assessment of impacts on cultural values would also form part of resource consent requirements.

In addition to this, some variations are needed to existing rules in the Proposed District Plan. For instance, existing earthworks provisions, historic heritage provisions, making cemeteries and crematoria prohibited in Town Centres and Local Shopping Centres.

WĀHI TŪPUNA LOCATIONS

Wāhi Tūpuna are found across the district and include locations adjacent to rivers and lakes. To view the locations in more detail, please use the GIS Map Tool available at: www.qldc.govt.nz/planning/district-plan/proposed-district-plan-stage-3/web-mapping-application-for-stage-3. The wāhi tūpuna locations are shown as hatched with a green outline.

WANT TO GET INTO MORE DETAIL?

Full details, including how to make a submission, a glossary of terms, and other resources are available at: www.qldc.govt.nz/proposed-district-plan-stage-3.

For clarification on any of the proposed changes, a duty policy planner will be available either by phone or in person by appointment, every workday until submissions close. Please phone 03 441 0499 (Queenstown) or 03 443 0024 (Wānaka) or email pdpenquiries@qldc.govt.nz.