

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). Chapter 39 of Queenstown Lakes District Council's (QLDC) Proposed District Plan (PDP) aims to identify and recognise these areas to ensure activities within Wāhi Tūpuna are appropriately managed.

Glossary

The following terms are described in Chapter 2.3 Glossary of the PDP as:

Whānau	Family
Iwi	Tribe
Hapū	Sub-tribe, extended whānau
Rangātiratanga/Rakatirataka	Chieftainship, decision-making rights
Kaitiakitanga/Kaitiakitaka	The exercise of customary custodianship, in a manner that incorporates spiritual matters, by tangata whenua who hold Manawhenua status for a particular area or resource
Manawhenua	Those who exercise customary authority or rangātiratanga
Wāhi Tūpuna	Landscapes and places that embody the relationship of Manawhenua and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga
Wāhi Tapu	Places sacred to tangata whenua
Wāhi Taoka	Resources, places and sites treasured by tangata whenua. These valued places reflect the long history and association of Ngāi Tahu with the Queenstown Lakes District

Other English translations and explanations of Māori words and terms are provided in Chapter 5 Tangata Whenua.

Where are Wāhi Tūpuna sites?

Kāi Tahu regards the whole of the district as ancestral land, although only a fraction of these lands have been mapped in the PDP as Wāhi Tūpuna (Sites of Significance to Kāi Tahu). Wāhi Tūpuna can be identified using the overlay in [QLDC's PDP maps](#), which broadly depicts Wāhi Tūpuna areas that Kāi Tahu seeks to protect. QLDC has worked with Kāi Tahu to identify and map Wāhi Tūpuna using GIS. Each area is listed in Schedule 39.6 including the mapping number, name, description, Manawhenua values, and potential threats. The identification and mapping of Wāhi Tūpuna relied on Mātauranga Māori, recognising that Manawhenua hold the cultural knowledge relating to Wāhi Tūpuna and are the appropriate source of this information.

Objectives and policies for identified Wāhi Tūpuna are contained primarily in Chapter 39. Most activities identified as potential threats already require a resource consent under the PDP. This means that if an activity triggers a resource consent under the PDP and is identified as a potential threat in Chapter 39, potential adverse effects on Manawhenua values may need to be assessed to understand to what extent these values are adversely impacted. Engagement with Manawhenua may be needed in this instance, (in some cases it may be a requirement) to assess if these values are adversely impacted.

Some of the potential threats outlined in the Schedule (39.6) do not trigger a resource consent per se, but where resource consent is triggered for a relevant discretionary or non-complying activity under the PDP, then the objectives and policies of Chapter 39 are relevant and mean the potential threats (outlined in Schedule 39.6) will need to be checked against and assessed from a cultural values perspective by Manawhenua.

Earthworks (Chapter 25), Subdivision (Chapter 27), and Utilities (Chapter 30) chapters where activities within identified Wāhi Tūpuna all include relevant provisions to protect these sites.

Statutory Acknowledgement Areas

A Statutory Acknowledgement is an acknowledgement by the Crown of Manawhenua's special relationship with identified areas, namely Manawhenua's cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with those areas. Statutory Acknowledgement Areas (SAAs) are recognised through the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and included in Schedule 11 of the RMA.

QLDC is required to include these areas in planning maps and any activity occurring on or adjacent to Statutory Acknowledgement Areas requires the consideration of whether Manawhenua are potentially affected.

Identified Wāhi Tūpuna areas include these Statutory Acknowledgement Areas.

Urban environment

In the urban environment, identified Wāhi Tūpuna areas are listed in Schedule 39.6 and mapped in GIS, but no threats are identified in the schedule due to the extensive level of modification that has occurred.

Kāi Tahu acknowledges that the urban environment has experienced significant development, and that means further development provided for by zone rules is not expected to contribute to reduction of Manawhenua values. However, identified Wāhi Tūpuna areas within the urban environment remain significant. Therefore, potential adverse effects on Manawhenua values within the urban environment may be assessed as part of a discretionary or non-complying activity.

Where an identified Wāhi Tūpuna area is within the urban environment, Rule 25.5.7.3 relating to earthworks for roads, and Rule 27.5.11 for subdivision do not apply. The urban environment is identified as those zones set out in Part 3 of the PDP: Urban Environment and the Open Space and Recreation Zones within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Zones that don't form part of the PDP

Council will process applications for consent under the Operative District Plan (ODP) rules when it receives a consent application for land within identified Wāhi Tūpuna areas but outside Stage 1, Stage 2 or Stage 3 PDP areas.

Consulting with Manawhenua

If a proposed land use and/or land development activity is within a Wāhi Tūpuna overlay or falls within or adjacent to a Statutory Acknowledgement Area, the applicants are required to investigate the nature of their activity (see the diagram below) and clarify whether their proposed activity triggers a rule in the PDP. This will help the applicants understand whether they need to undertake formal engagement with Manawhenua. If in doubt, applicants are encouraged to engage with the QLDC's Resource Consenting team to clarify. In these situations, early engagement with Manawhenua will be needed to understand potential effects of activities within identified Wāhi Tūpuna areas where resource consent is triggered.

Where pre-consultation has occurred, the outcome of consultation should be included with a resource consent application. For example, inclusion of any written correspondence from Manawhenua, affected party approval, or a cultural impact assessment for a larger more complex project.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (the iwi authority) is made up of 18 papatipu rūnanga, which are a focus for whānau and hapū who have manawhenua status within their area. Aukaha and Te Ao Marama Incorporated are the consultancies that represent all relevant Rūnanga holding Manawhenua within the district, and work on behalf of Kāi Tahu as the Treaty Partner.

Contact details

Aukaha represent the following rūnaka:

- » Te Rūnanga o Moeraki
- » Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki
- » Te Rūnanga o Ōtakou
- » Hokonui Rūnanga

Email: consents@aukaha.co.nz

Te Ao Marama Inc. represent the following rūnaka:

- » Te Rūnanga o Awarua
- » Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima
- » Te Rūnaka o Waihopai

Email: office@tami.maori.nz

Notification

The decision to notify a resource consent sits with the Council as set out in the RMA, unless rules explicitly preclude notification.

How do the provisions work?

The direction set by the strategic provisions of QLDC's PDP requires any significant adverse effects on Wāhi Tūpuna to be avoided, and other adverse effects to be avoided, remedied, or mitigated. The identification of Wāhi Tūpuna areas, their values, and potential threats provides clear direction regarding what areas to manage and protect.

- » Chapter 39 has rules which address the following activities which may sometimes be 'potential threats' to Wāhi Tūpuna values:
 - Farm buildings;
 - Buildings and structures (associated with energy and utility activities) close to waterbodies.
- » Provisions relating to earthworks, subdivision, and energy and utilities can be found in the relevant chapters of the PDP.
- » Policy 39.2.1.1 lists activities that may have effects incompatible with Wāhi Tūpuna, including mining, landfills, wastewater treatment plants, cemeteries and crematoria, forestry, and indigenous vegetation removal from significant natural areas. Please note: these activities are likely to be of interest to Manawhenua anywhere in the Queenstown Lakes District.
- » Other activities within Wāhi Tūpuna listed elsewhere in the PDP that are discretionary or non-complying activities may also require consultation with Manawhenua.

How are the Wāhi Tūpuna provisions relevant to my activity?

