

Appendix 1

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO CHANGE 1 INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY PROVISIONS: Policies 24 – 24D and Policy 47

Annotations:

Section 42A recommendations in red, rebuttal recommendations in blue. Further amendments agreed in expert conferencing shown in green without highlighting.

All changes to Policy 24, 24A and 24B agreed by all experts.

Changes to Policy 24C and 24D, and inclusion of new Policy 24CC agreed by all experts except as described in the joint witness statement for Topics 4, 5 and 6 - refer **green highlighted** text.

Policy 24: Protecting indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans

~~As soon as reasonably practicable and by no later than 4 August 2028~~By 30 June 2025,
District and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to protect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, including by applying:

- (a) Policy 24B Clause 3.10 and Clause 3.11 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 to manage adverse effects on significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment;
- (b) Policy 24C 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 to manage adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal environment; and
- (c) Policy 24D to manage the adverse effects of REG activities and ET activities on significant indigenous biodiversity values (these activities are not subject to Policy 24A and Policy 24B). Policies 18A and 18B in this Regional Policy Statement to manage adverse effects on the values and extent of natural inland wetlands and rivers.

~~Where the policies and/or rules in district and regional plans enable the use of biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation for an ecosystem or habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values, they shall:~~

~~(a) not provide for biodiversity offsetting;~~

~~(i) where there is no appropriate site, knowledge, proven methods, expertise or mechanism available to design and implement an adequate biodiversity offset; or~~

~~(ii) when an activity is anticipated to causes residual adverse effects on an area after an offset has been implemented if the ecosystem or species is threatened or the ecosystem is naturally uncommon;~~

~~(b) not provide for biodiversity compensation where an activity is anticipated to cause residual adverse effects on an area if the ecosystem or species is threatened or the ecosystem is naturally uncommon;~~

~~(c) ecosystems and species known to meet any of the criteria in (a) or (b) are listed in Appendix 1A (Limits to biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation);~~

~~(d) require that the outcome sought from the use of biodiversity offsetting is at least a 10 percent net biodiversity gain, or from biodiversity compensation is at least a 10 percent net biodiversity benefit.~~

Explanation

Policy 24 applies to provisions in regional and district plans. This requires the protection of significant indigenous biodiversity values in terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments consistent with section 6(c) of the RMA. It also clarifies that the effects management provisions for significant indigenous biodiversity values in higher order national direction instruments that need to be applied when giving effect to this policy in regional and district plans. Policies 18A and 18B in this Regional Policy Statement include effects management provisions to manage adverse effects on the values and extent of natural inland wetlands and rivers.

~~The policy provides clarity about the limits to, and expected outcomes from, biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation for an ecosystem or habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values. Ecosystems and species known to meet the criteria in clauses (a and b) are listed in Appendix 1A (Limits to biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation).~~

~~Calculating a 10 percent net biodiversity gain (offsetting) or a 10 percent net biodiversity benefit (compensation) employs the same or a similar calculation methodology used to determine 'no net loss or preferably net gain' under a standard offsetting approach. The distinction between 'net gain' and 'net benefit' is to recognise that the outcomes achievable through the use of offsetting and compensation are different. An offsetting 'net biodiversity gain' outcome is expected to achieve an objectively verifiable increase in biodiversity values while a compensation 'net biodiversity benefit' outcome is more subjective and less preferable.~~

Table 16 in Appendix 1 identifies rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values by applying criteria taken from policy 23 of rarity (habitat for threatened indigenous fish species) and diversity (high macroinvertebrate community health, habitat for six or more migratory indigenous fish species).

Policy 47 will need to be considered alongside policy 24 when changing, varying or reviewing a regional or district plan.

Policy 24 is not intended to prevent change, but rather to ensure that change is carefully considered and is appropriate in relation to the biodiversity values identified in policy 23.

Policy 24A: Principles for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation – regional and district plans (except for REG and ET activities)

- (a) Where district and regional plans provide for biodiversity offsetting or aquatic offsetting or biodiversity compensation or aquatic compensation as part of an effects management hierarchy for indigenous biodiversity and/or for aquatic values and extent, they shall include policies and methods to:
 - (i) ensure this meets the requirements of the full suite of principles for biodiversity offsetting and/or aquatic offsetting ~~biodiversity compensation~~ set out in Appendix 1C ~~Appendix 3 and 4 of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023~~ or for biodiversity compensation ~~and/or aquatic compensation~~ set out in Appendix 1D ~~6 and 7 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020~~;
 - (ii) provide further direction on where biodiversity offsetting, aquatic offsetting, biodiversity compensation, and aquatic compensation are ~~not in~~ appropriate, in accordance with clauses (b) to (d) and ~~(e)~~ below;
 - (iii) provide further direction on required outcomes from biodiversity offsetting, aquatic offsetting, biodiversity compensation, and aquatic compensation, in accordance with clauses ~~(de)~~ and ~~(ef)~~ below; and
- (b) In evaluating whether biodiversity offsetting or aquatic offsetting is inappropriate because of irreplaceability or vulnerability of the indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values affected, the feasibility to offset residual adverse effects on any threatened or naturally uncommon ecosystem or threatened species must be considered, including those listed in Appendix 1A ~~must be considered~~ as a minimum; and
- (c) In evaluating whether biodiversity compensation or aquatic compensation is inappropriate because of the irreplaceability or vulnerability of the indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values affected, recognise that it is inappropriate to use biodiversity compensation or aquatic compensation where residual adverse effects affect ~~an ecosystem or species that is listed in Appendix 1A as a threatened or~~

naturally uncommon ecosystem or threatened species, including those listed in Appendix 1A as a minimum; and

- (d) In evaluating whether *biodiversity offsetting or aquatic offsetting* is inappropriate because there are no technically feasible methods to secure gains in acceptable timeframes, recognise that this is likely to be inappropriate for those species and ecosystems listed in column Policy 24A(d) in Appendix 1A; and
- (e) District and regional plans shall include policies and methods that require *biodiversity offsetting or aquatic offsetting* to achieve at least a net gain, and preferably a 10% net gain or greater, in indigenous biodiversity outcomes to address residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values. This requires demonstrating, and then achieving, net gains in the type, amount, and condition of the indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values impacted. Calculating net gain requires a like-for-like quantitative loss/ gain calculation of the indigenous biodiversity values (type, amount, and condition) affected by the proposed activity; and
- (f) District and regional plans shall include policies and method to require *biodiversity compensation or aquatic compensation* to achieve positive effects in indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values that outweigh residual adverse effects on affected indigenous biodiversity, extent, or values.

Explanation:

Policy 24A recognises that the outcomes achievable through the use of biodiversity or aquatic offsetting and compensation are different. A ‘net gain’ outcome from offsetting is expected to achieve an objectively verifiable increase in the target values, while a compensation outcome is more subjective and less preferable. This policy applies to the use of biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation to address the residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial and coastal environments and aquatic offsetting and compensation to address the loss of extent or values of natural inland wetlands and rivers.

Policy 24A is to be read with Policy 24C(1) which sets out adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment that need to be avoided, meaning that applications for biodiversity offsetting or biodiversity compensation cannot be considered. These ecosystems and species are also listed in Table 17 and Appendix 1A. Policy 24A does not apply to *REG activities* and *ET activities* which are subject to 24D. Instead Policy 24D(3) requires *REG activities* and *ET activities* to have regard to the principles for *biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation*.

Policy 24B: Managing adverse effects on significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment – district and regional plans (except for REG and ET activities)

As soon as reasonably practicable, and by no later than 4 August 2028, district plans shall include policies, rules and methods to protect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment by:

- 1) Except as provided for by clause (2) and (3), avoiding the following adverse effects:
 - (a) loss of ecosystem representation and extent;
 - (b) disruption to sequences, mosaics, or ecosystem function;
 - (c) fragmentation of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values or the loss of buffers or connections within these ecosystems and habitats;
 - (d) a reduction in the function of indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems;
 - (e) a reduction in the population size or occupancy of Threatened or At Risk species that use a habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values for any part of their life cycle.

- 2) Applying the effects management hierarchy to adverse effects not referred to in clause (1) and to the following new subdivision, use and development activities, which are exempt from clause (1):
 - (a) ~~the development, operation, maintenance~~ Construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure (excluding REG activities and ET activities) if;
 - (i) it provides significant national or regional public benefit; and
 - (ii) there is a functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and
 - (iii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.
 - (b) ~~the development, operation and maintenance of m~~Mineral extraction activities if:
 - (i) it provides a significant national public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand; and
 - (ii) there is functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and
 - (iii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.

- (c) ~~The development, operation and maintenance of a~~ Aggregate extraction activities if:
- (i) it provides a significant national or regional public benefit that could not otherwise be achieved using resources within New Zealand; and
 - (ii) there is functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and
 - (iii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.
- (d) The operation or expansion of any coal mine that was lawfully established before August 2023 (except that, after 31 December 2030, this exception applies only to such coal mines that extract coking coal) if;
- (i) there is functional need or operational need to be in that particular location; and
 - (ii) there are no practicable alternative locations for the activity.
- (e) ~~Activities to develop a~~ New use and development associated with a single residential dwelling on an allotment that was created before 4 August 2023 and where there is no practicable location within the allotment where a single residential dwelling and essential associated on-site infrastructure can be constructed without avoiding the adverse effects referred to in clause (1).
- (f) ~~Use or development Activities that are~~ for the purpose of maintaining or restoring ecosystems and habitats provided it does not involve the permanent destruction of significant habitat of indigenous biodiversity (or an alternative management approach established to restore indigenous biodiversity).
- (g) ~~Use or development Activities~~ in an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna (other than an area managed under the Forests Act 1949) that was established and is managed primarily for a purpose other than the maintenance or restoration of that indigenous biodiversity and the loss of indigenous biodiversity values is necessary to meet that purpose.
- (h) ~~Use and development Activities~~ associated with the harvest of indigenous tree species, such as track clearance or timber storage (but not the harvest itself managed under clause (3)(d)), from within an ecosystem or habitat with significant indigenous biodiversity values that is carried out in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949.
- 3) Allowing the following use, development, work and activities without being subject to clause (1) and (2):

- (a) Use and development Activities required to address a high risk to public health or safety;
- (b) The sustainable customary use of indigenous biodiversity conducted in accordance with tikanga;
- (c) Work or activity of the Crown within the boundaries of any area of land held or managed under the Conservation Act 1987 or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act (other than land held for administrative purposes), provided that the work or activity:
 - (i) Is undertaken in a way that is consistent with any applicable conservation management strategy, conservation management plan, or management plan established under the Conservation Act 1987, or any other Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act; and
 - (ii) Does not have a significant adverse effect beyond the boundary of the land.
- (d) The harvest of indigenous tree species that is carried out in accordance with a forest management plan or permit under Part 3A of the Forests Act 1949.

Explanation

Policy 24B applies to indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment. Clause (1) sets out a list of adverse effects that need to be avoided to ensure the protection of these ecosystems and habitats, their *ecosystem function* and values. Clause (2) sets out a list of activities that are exempt from clause (1) and instead adverse effects are to be managed in accordance with the *effects management hierarchy* and other relevant requirements are met (e.g. there is an operational need or functional need for the activity to be in that particular location). Clause (3) sets out a list of essential activities, customary activities, or activities undertaken in accordance with conservation management plan or forest management plan that are exempt from clause (1) and (2). **Policy 24B does not apply to REG activities and ET activities.**

Policy 24C: Managing adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal environment – district and regional plans

As soon as reasonably practicable, and by no later than 4 August 2028, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to manage adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal environment to:

- (1) Avoid adverse effects of activities on the following ecosystems, habitats and species with significant indigenous biodiversity values:

- (a) indigenous taxa that are listed as *Threatened or At-Risk species* in the New Zealand Threat Classification System lists;
 - (b) taxa that are listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources as threatened;
 - (c) *threatened indigenous ecosystems* and vegetation types that are threatened in the coastal environment, or are *naturally rare*;
 - (d) habitats of indigenous species where the species are at the limit of their natural range, or are *naturally rare*;
 - (e) areas containing nationally significant examples of indigenous community types; and
 - (f) areas set aside for full or partial protection of indigenous biological diversity under other legislation; and
- (2) Avoid significant adverse effects and ~~avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities~~ on the following indigenous ecosystems and habitats:
- (a) areas of predominantly indigenous vegetation in the coastal environment;
 - (b) habitats in the coastal environment that are important during the vulnerable life stages of indigenous species;
 - (c) indigenous ecosystems and habitats that are only found in the coastal environment and are particularly vulnerable to modification, including estuaries, lagoons, coastal wetlands, dunelands, intertidal zones, rocky reef systems, eelgrass and saltmarsh;
 - (d) habitats of indigenous species in the coastal environment that are important for recreational, commercial, traditional or cultural purposes;
 - (e) habitats, including areas and routes, important to migratory species; and
 - (f) ecological corridors, and areas important for linking or maintaining biological values.
- (3) Manage non-significant adverse effects on the indigenous ecosystems and habitats referred to in clause (2) by:
- (a) avoiding adverse effects where practicable; then
 - (b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimising them where practicable; then
 - (c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised they are remedied where practicable; then

- (d) where residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where possible; then
 - (e) if biodiversity offsetting of residual adverse effects is not possible, the activity itself is avoided unless the activity is regionally significant infrastructure then biodiversity compensation is provided, and
 - (f) the activity itself is avoided if biodiversity compensation cannot be undertaken in a way that is appropriate as set out in Appendix 1D.
- (4) for all other ecosystems and habitats not listed in clause (1) and (2), manage significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity values using the effects management hierarchy.

Explanation:

This policy applies to provisions in district and regional plans. This requires district and regional plans to manage adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity in the coastal environment by applying a hierarchy approach based on the values of the indigenous species, ecosystem or habitat. Policy 24C is to be read together with:

- Policy 24A which sets out principles for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation which apply in the coastal environment.
- Policy 24B in relation to the coastal environment above mean high water springs, with Policy 24C to prevail where there is conflict that cannot be resolved.
- Policy 24C is to be read alongside Policy 24CC which relates to existing regionally significant infrastructure (excluding ET activities) and REG activities in the coastal environment. ~~and~~
- Policy 24D which applies to REG activities in terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments.

Policy 24CC: Existing regionally significant infrastructure and REG activities in coastal environment - regional and district plans

As soon as reasonably practicable, and by no later than 4 August 2028, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to consider providing for the operation, maintenance, upgrade and extension of existing regionally significant infrastructure and REG activities that may have any of the adverse effects referred to in clause (1) and (2) of Policy 24C where:

- (1) There is a functional need or operational need for the regionally significant infrastructure or REG activities to be in the area; and
- (2) There is no practicable alternative on land or elsewhere in the coastal environment for the activity to be located; and

- (3) The activity provides for the maintenance and, where practicable, the enhancement or restoration of the affected significant indigenous biodiversity values and attributes at, and in proximity to, the affected area, taking into account any consultation with the Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and mana whenua.

Explanation: Policy 24CC is to be read with Policy 24C and enables consideration of the operation, maintenance, upgrade and extension of existing regionally significant infrastructure (excluding ET activities) and existing REG activities with adverse effects listed under clause (1) and (2) of Policy 24C when certain requirements are met, including demonstrating a functional or operational need, no practicable alternative locations, and provision for the maintenance, enhancement or restoration of significant indigenous biodiversity values at the area affected.

Policy 24D: Managing the effects of REG activities and ET activities on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – district and regional plans

As soon as reasonably practicable, and by no later than 4 August 2028, district and regional plans shall include policies, rules and methods to manage the effects of REG activities and ET activities on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values to:

- 1) Allow REG activities and or ET activities to locate in areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values if:
 - (a) there is an operational need or functional need for the REG activities or ET activities to be located in that area; and
 - (b) the REG activities or ET activities are nationally or regionally significant; and
 - (c) clause (2) is applied to manage adverse effects.
- 2) Manage adverse effects by applying the following hierarchy:
 - (a) adverse effects are avoided where practicable; then
 - (b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable; then
 - (c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable; then
 - (d) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, biodiversity offsetting is provided where practicable; then

- (e) if biodiversity offsetting of more than minor adverse effects is not practicable, biodiversity compensation is provided; then
 - (f) if biodiversity compensation is not appropriate to address any residual adverse effects:
 - i. the REG activities or ET activities must be avoided if the residual adverse effects are significant; but
 - ii. if the residual adverse effects are not significant, the REG activities or ET activities must be enabled if the national significance and benefits of the activities outweigh the residual adverse effects.
- 3) When considering biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation, have regard to the principles set out in Appendix 1C and Appendix 1D.

Explanation

Policy 24D applies to REG activities and ET activities and applies a specific pathway and effects management framework for these activities to ensure adverse effects of these activities on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values are appropriately managed.

Policy 47: Managing effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may affect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and in determining whether the proposed activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

- (a) maintaining connections within, or corridors between, habitats of indigenous flora and fauna, and/or enhancing the connectivity between fragmented indigenous habitats;
- (b) providing adequate *buffering* around areas of significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats from other land uses;
- (c) managing natural wetlands for the purpose of aquatic ecosystem health, recognising the wider benefits, such as for indigenous biodiversity, water quality and holding water in the landscape;
- (d) avoiding the cumulative adverse effects of the incremental loss of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;

- (e) providing seasonal or core habitat for indigenous species;
- (f) protecting the life supporting capacity of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;
- (g) ~~remediating or mitigating~~ minimising or remediating adverse effects on the indigenous biodiversity values where avoiding adverse effects is not practicably achievable except where Clause (i) and (j) apply; and
- (h) the need for a precautionary approach to be adopted when assessing and managing the potential for adverse effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats, where;
 - (i) the effects on indigenous biodiversity are uncertain, unknown, or little understood; and
 - (ii) those effects could cause significant or irreversible damage to indigenous biodiversity;
- (i) ~~the limits for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation set out in Appendix 1A~~ the provisions to protect significant biodiversity values in Policy 24, Policy 24B, and Policy 24C and the principles for biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity compensation in Policy 24A, except that Policy 24A and Policy 24B do not apply to REG activities and ET activities;
- (j) the provisions to manage the adverse effects of REG and ET activities on significant biodiversity values in Policy 24D;
- (k) protecting indigenous biodiversity values of significance to mana whenua/tangata whenua, particularly those associated with a significant site for mana whenua/tangata whenua identified in a regional or district plan;
- (l) except for REG activities and ET activities, enabling established activities affecting significant biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment to continue, where provided that the effects of the activities:
 - (i) are no greater in intensity, scale and character; and
 - (ii) do not result in loss of extent, or degradation of ecological integrity, of any significant biodiversity values; and
- (m) ensuring that the adverse effects of plantation forestry activities on significant indigenous biodiversity values in the terrestrial environment are managed in a way that:
 - (i) maintains significant indigenous biodiversity values as far as practicable, while enabling plantation forestry activities to continue; and

- (ii) where significant biodiversity values are within an existing plantation forest, maintains the long-term populations of any *Threatened or At Risk (declining) species* present in the area over the course of consecutive rotations of production.

Explanation

Policy 47 provides an interim assessment framework for councils, resource consent applicants and other interested parties, prior to the identification of ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in accordance with ~~Policy~~ Policy 23, and the adoption of plan provisions for protection in accordance with ~~Policy~~ Policy 24. ~~Remedying and mitigating effects can include offsetting, where appropriate.~~ Policy 47 makes it clear that the provisions in Policy 24 and Policy 24A to protect significant indigenous biodiversity values must be considered until those policies are given effect to in regional and district plans. Policy 47 also provides for established activities and plantation forestry activities affecting significant indigenous biodiversity values to continue, provided certain tests are met, consistent with the requirements in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023. The clauses above that relate to Policy 24A, Policy 24B and established activities do not apply to REG activities or ET activities.

In determining whether an activity may affect significant indigenous biodiversity values, the criteria in ~~Policy~~ Policy 23 should be used.

This policy shall cease to have effect once policies 23 and 24 are ~~in place~~ given effect to in an operative district or regional plan, including all of the matters listed in (a) to (l) above.

Appendix 2

CHANGES TO POLICY IE.2A RECOMMENDED BY COUNCIL REPORTING OFFICERS:

Not agreed by all experts

Annotations:

Section 42A recommendations in red, rebuttal recommendations in blue. Changes recommended by s42A Authors during caucusing in green. Amendments not agreed in joint witness statement, refer Topic 7.

Policy IE.2A: Maintaining indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a plan change, variation or review of a district plan or regional plan, indigenous biodiversity in the terrestrial environment that does not have significant indigenous biodiversity values as identified under Policy 23 and is not on Māori land, shall be maintained by:

- ~~(a) recognising and providing for the importance of maintaining indigenous biodiversity that does not have significant biodiversity values under Policy 23;~~
- (a) avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of REG activities and ET activities to the extent practicable; and
- (b) managing any significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity from any other proposed activity by applying the effects management hierarchy in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023; and
- (c) managing all other adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity from any proposed activity to achieve at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity within the region or district as applicable; and or
- ~~(d) avoiding, remedying or mitigating the adverse effects of REG activities and ET activities to the extent practicable.~~

Explanation

Policy IE.2A recognises that it is important to maintain indigenous biodiversity that does not have significant indigenous biodiversity values to meet the requirements in section 30(1)(ga) and section 31(b)(iii) of the RMA. This policy applies to indigenous biodiversity that does not have significant values in the terrestrial environment as identified under Policy 23 and requires a more robust approach to managing any significant adverse effects on indigenous

biodiversity from a proposed activity and to maintain indigenous biodiversity more generally.