

Thames-Coromandel Proposed District Plan

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Proposed amendments to earthworks rules in urban zones to manage the spread of kauri dieback disease

Section 293 of the Resource Management Act 1991

The Thames-Coromandel Proposed District Plan was notified on 13 December 2013. The Thames-Coromandel District Council decisions on submissions were publicly notified on 29 April 2016. Decisions on those submissions are currently under appeal to the Environment Court.

An appeal by the Director-General of Conservation was lodged on 13 June 2016 and sought that new controls be included in the Proposed Plan applying to the Rural, Rural Lifestyle and Conservation Zones of the District. The controls sought to require any earthworks within three times the radius of a kauri tree (kauri hygiene zone) to be undertaken in a manner which follows a particular protocol to avoid the spread of kauri dieback disease.

Several parties joined that appeal as interested parties and a series of mediations were held in an effort to settle the rules. Two hearings then took place in the Environment Court on 27 November 2017 and 9 July 2018.

The Environment Court issued its decision on the appeal on 18 March 2019 and confirmed the new earthworks rules for the Rural, Rural Lifestyle and Conservation Zones of the District, subject to a number of amendments. The new rules require a Kauri Dieback Disease Risk Management Plan to be prepared, approved and implemented before any earthworks can be undertaken within a kauri hygiene zone. The management plan requirements are comprehensive and ensure that any soil and organic matter from the earthworks is safely contained.

Pursuant to section 293 of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Environment Court also directed the Council to apply similar rules to the 'Urban Zones' of the District which were not included as part of the Director-General's appeal. As part of that process, the Council is undertaking public consultation.

The Council has prepared a full consultation package which includes further information, the Environment Court decision and examples of the proposed amendments to the Urban Zones of the District. To view the consultation package or to make a submission on the proposal, please visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/s293kauridieback

The closing date for submissions is 24 January 2020

Notification date: 14 November 2019

Find out more: phone 07 868 0200

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