

- 4.5.8.3. Rehabilitation of mined areas to standards which take into account what is practically achievable, desired by the community and environmentally appropriate.

4.5.9. Monitoring

- 4.5.9.1. The Council will keep a record of all mined and rehabilitated areas that have been granted resource consent, and will visit each active area at least once every two years to assess the effects of the activity on the environment.
- 4.5.9.2. The Council may require, as a condition on any resource consent for a new mine, the provision of monitoring information including yearly reports on the environment mitigation measures undertaken, in order to provide information to assess whether the rules in the District Plan and conditions of resource consents are sufficiently effective in remedying adverse effects.
- 4.5.9.3. The Council will keep a register of any complaints concerning mines and will ensure that these are investigated where appropriate.

4.6. Cultural/Historic Resources

4.6.1. Key Issue

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| 4.6.1.1. Access to, or development near, cultural and historic sites may adversely impact on their cultural and historic values. |
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- 4.6.2. The history of both Maori and European settlement of Buller has resulted in a rich cultural and historic heritage. Both natural and physical resources were heavily relied upon for food, shelter, medicines and fibre. Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast) is renowned for its minerals, including pounamu, and natural resources which exist within wetlands, lagoons, swamps and mountains.
- 4.6.3. Areas and sites of importance occur largely around the coast, wetlands and rivers and in forested areas. Historic resources dating from the time of European settlement are largely concentrated in the existing settlements (see 4.3 - The Built Environment) although significant areas associated with mining and forestry activities still remain. These sites include old coal shafts and railways, for example the Denniston incline, abandoned settlements and sites where important events took place, for example at Cannibal Gorge and the Buller Gorge.
- 4.6.4. In the past, sites of historical or cultural significance have been destroyed by insensitive development or land use. The Historic Places Trust maintains a register of historic places, areas, and waahi tapu which it supplies to the Council. However, final registration under the Historic Places Act does not prevent demolition or damage to an historic place. That form of protection can be achieved by the Historic Places Trust or the Council by using the heritage order procedures under the

Resource Management Act. The District Plan provisions also provide a measure of protection and in particular allow for proposals which might affect historic places to be scrutinised through the resource consent process.

- 4.6.5. The Council has a good record of historic sites within the District, which include a number of sites or places of Maori cultural value. However there are other cultural sites, including waahi tapu, the location of which tangata whenua do not wish to make public. Waahi tapu are sacred places of spiritual and cultural significance to Maori and relate to their association with tupuna (or ancestors) and historical events. Waahi tapu can include urupa (burial grounds), tuhituhi nehera (rock drawing sites), maunga (mountains), waahi rua (food storage areas), waiwera (hot water for healing purposes and recreation) and waipuna (important fresh water springs). Of all waahi tapu it is most important to ensure that the urupa are protected. By protecting the urupa, the mana of the ancestors and their descendants are remembered.
- 4.6.6. Tangata whenua are concerned that their urupa are not disturbed and that appropriate mechanisms and procedures are put in place which guarantees their protection and ensures that when accidental disturbance occurs tangata whenua are consulted.

4.6.7. Objective

4.6.7.1. To protect places and sites of historical and cultural value from the adverse effects of land use activities and to ensure where appropriate, access to historic and cultural sites is maintained and enhanced.

4.6.8. Policies

- 4.6.8.1. *A close and on-going relationship with tangata whenua and the Council shall be maintained, including the maintenance of confidential records in ways which accord with the tikanga of tangata whenua of known waahi tapu.*
- 4.6.8.2. *Evaluate and protect heritage resources by identifying those resources of historic, cultural or architectural value or of special significance to the District.*
- 4.6.8.3. *As and when cultural and/or historical sites of importance to tangata whenua are identified by respective Kaitiaki in Buller District, the Council shall facilitate the recording of such sites in ways which accord with the tikanga of local iwi.*
- 4.6.8.4. *Assessment of resource consent applications shall include their potential impact on known places of historic and/or cultural value.*
- 4.6.8.5. *Continued access to sites of special cultural significance to tangata whenua shall be supported.*
- 4.6.8.6. *Upon accidental discovery of urupa or skeletal remains, consultation with the tangata whenua shall be required.*

4.6.9. Methods of Implementation

- 4.6.9.1. Provide information and/or guidelines to the public on the process and protocol for tangata whenua consultation including appropriate contacts.
- 4.6.9.2. Support tangata whenua in developing silent and/or confidential files on waahi tapu within the Buller District, and where necessary and appropriate, inform landowners of the general area of any known waahi tapu or historic sites on their land so that accidental damage is prevented.
- 4.6.9.3. Support the Historic Places Trust in registering historical and cultural sites or places within Buller District.
- 4.6.9.4. Encourage the use of heritage orders for the protection of significant cultural and/or historical resources and sites.
- 4.6.9.5. Develop and include as rules in the Plan methods to protect cultural/historic sites.
- 4.6.9.6. Encourage and facilitate liaison between landowners and relevant agencies on heritage protection, including the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and tangata whenua.

4.6.10. Explanation/Reasons

- 4.6.10.1. The objective and policies recognise the importance and value of historical and cultural sites in Buller District and aim to ensure that as far as possible places of significance are identified ahead of any development taking place. For this reason historic and cultural sites are identified on the planning maps where they are known to Council. Methods of implementation contained in Part 5 and 6 of the Plan aim to ensure that the impact of activities on historic and cultural sites is assessed. Where accidental disturbance occurs to sites previously unknown, the Council aims to ensure appropriate action is then undertaken.
- 4.6.10.2. The policies recognise that while it may be appropriate to identify some waahi tapu sites, for others it may not. The establishment and maintenance of "silent" or confidential files by tangata whenua is encouraged and supported by the Council. The land, water and living resources of a particular area are representative of the people who reside there. As such they are closely linked to the mana of those people. Managed access to these resources, and the maintenance of this access are central to traditional Maori resource management. Regular and meaningful consultation with tangata whenua forms an integral part of ensuring that the management of the District's resources gives appropriate recognition of Maori concerns.

4.6.11. Intended Environmental Outcomes

- 4.6.11.1. Increased recognition and protection of sites/areas of historic/cultural significance.
- 4.6.11.2. Improved opportunities for use and access to traditional Maori sites by tangata whenua.
- 4.6.11.3. Incorporation and recognition of cultural and historic values and increased participation of tangata whenua in resource management decision making.

4.6.12. Monitoring

- 4.6.12.1. The Council will formally consult with local runanga at least once a year in order to receive their views on whether use and access to traditional Maori sites is improved and whether their values are being incorporated and recognised in resource management decision making.
- 4.6.12.2. The Council will inspect listed sites and areas at appropriate intervals in order to assess whether they are being protected.

4.7. The Coastal Environment**4.7.1. Key Issue**

4.7.1.1. Some land use activities require a coastal location, but such land use may adversely affect the maintenance and enhancement of the natural character of the coastal environment and people's enjoyment of it.

- 4.7.2. The small distance between the sea and mountains in Buller means that the coastal environment exerts a significant influence over the landscape, character and amenities of the District. The District Council's jurisdiction within the coastal environment extends down to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS). Within the Coastal Marine Area, most resource management responsibilities are held by either the Regional Council or the Minister of Conservation.
- 4.7.3. Tourism, especially nature-based tourism, and the demand for residential opportunities, could potentially conflict with the need to preserve the natural values and character of the coast. The major tourist route within the District, that is the Paparoa highway, runs through the coastal environment and as such has a higher profile than other less visited parts of the Buller.
- 4.7.4. Activities which could result in significant adverse effects on the coastal environment, include discharges of contaminants to the sea and rivers from coastal settlements (including raw sewage, run-off and landfill leachate), the erection of buildings along the coast, mining, marine farming, reclamations and development of port facilities. Excessive recreational use can deplete marram grass as a dune stabiliser, and contribute to sand dune erosion. However, many of these activities require a coastal location and appropriate locations within the coastal environment