

Getting started.

What to think about first.

Clearing large amounts of indigenous vegetation can cause loss of topsoil, changes to natural landscape features and character, and adverse impacts on ecosystems.

If your project involves clearing more than 2000m² of indigenous vegetation in a 5 year period you will need to a resource consent and may need to provide an expert report from an ecologist to accompany your application.

Some sites have covenants on the titles that protect native vegetation from being removed.

Get in touch to discuss your vegetation clearance plan.

Early meetings with the planning department are a great way to get all the information you need to submit good resource consent applications for vegetation clearance proposals.

We can help clarify what needs to be included in the applications, and whether you'll need to apply for consents from the regional council as well.

If you would like to schedule a meeting with a planner to get your project started, email us at planning@westlanddc.govt.nz or ring 03 756 9010

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Vegetation clearance

Need to clear some vegetation?
Start here.



Did you know?

Areas of indigenous vegetation are considered significant if they are one or more of the following:

Intact

Unmodified by human activity and covering 5ha or more

Representative

Contains examples of species typical of their ecological district

Distinctive

Unusual or rare species, or a result of particular factors (e.g. soil type, altitude)

Protected

Area is covenanted or similar

Connected

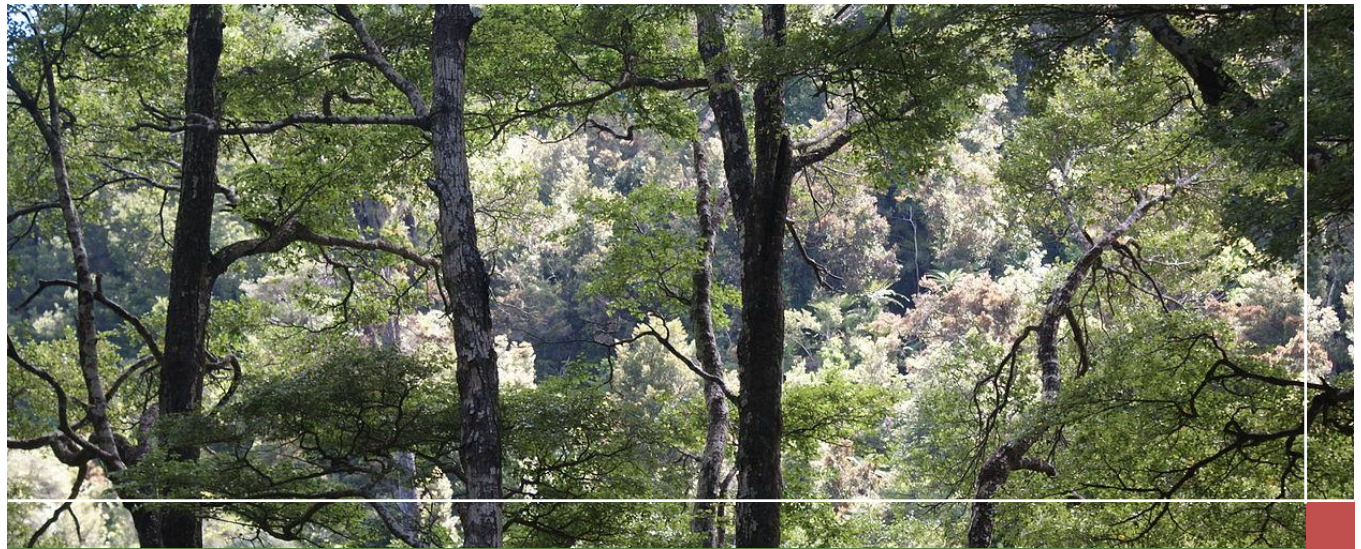
Connects to other significant areas, physically or through ecological processes

Threatened

Contains or supports a threatened species

Important to migratory species

Culturally or scientifically valued



The planning team can help you understand what a vegetation clearance consent application needs.

Protecting areas of significant indigenous vegetation is a matter of national importance under section 6c of the Resource Management Act 1991. Protection includes preventing pest plant species from spreading, and using resource consents to control how much indigenous vegetation can be removed at any given time.

District Plan

Your resource consent application needs to specifically refer to the relevant parts of the District Plan, and whether your proposal complies with the plan or not.

Issues and objectives in sections 3.3-3.8 and 3.10-3.12 of the Westland District Plan all relate to clearing indigenous vegetation. Reading those sections will help clarify the kinds of effects vegetation clearance can have.

Policy 4.9D states that the council will protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation. Section 5.6.2.2C confirms that removing more than 2000m² indigenous vegetation per site generally requires a resource consent.

Assessment of Environmental Effects

Every resource consent application contains an AEE section. In that part, you will compare your project to the policies and rules in the District Plan, the RMA and other relevant legislation. The AEE must describe what effects on the environment might result from your proposal, and how you plan to avoid, remedy or mitigate those effects. This help you think about whether you could amend your proposal to avoid adverse effects on the environment. If the amount of vegetation to be cleared is large or in a significant area, council will require that you provide an ecological report from a qualified ecologist with your application.

