

# Plan Change 3: SNAs

## Recommendations from:

- RMA Policy Committee
- Joint Governance Committee for JMA with Raukawa

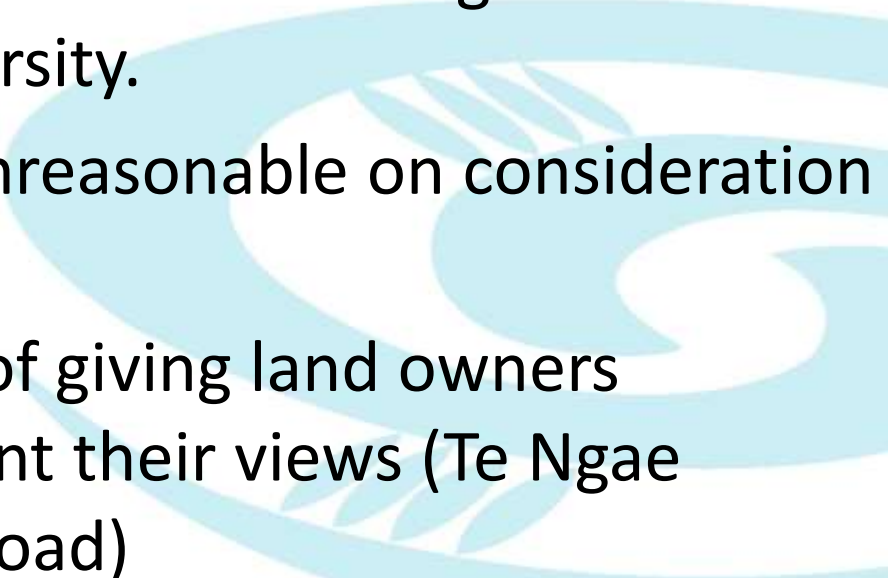


# Background


- s6c RMA matter of national importance:  
*Protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna*
- BOP and Waikato Regional Policy Statements: require protection of SNAs in District Plans and provide criteria for ID
- First set of SNAs and associated policy/rule framework notified 2012, adopted 2014, operative 2016
- Council commitment 2014 (in decisions on DP) to investigate 50+ potential additional SNAs that hadn't been assessed for significance
- Landowners requested review of boundaries of some sites (majority associated with a Fed Farmers appeal)
- Waikato geothermal study suggested updates needed to geothermal site mapping

# Proposed Plan Change

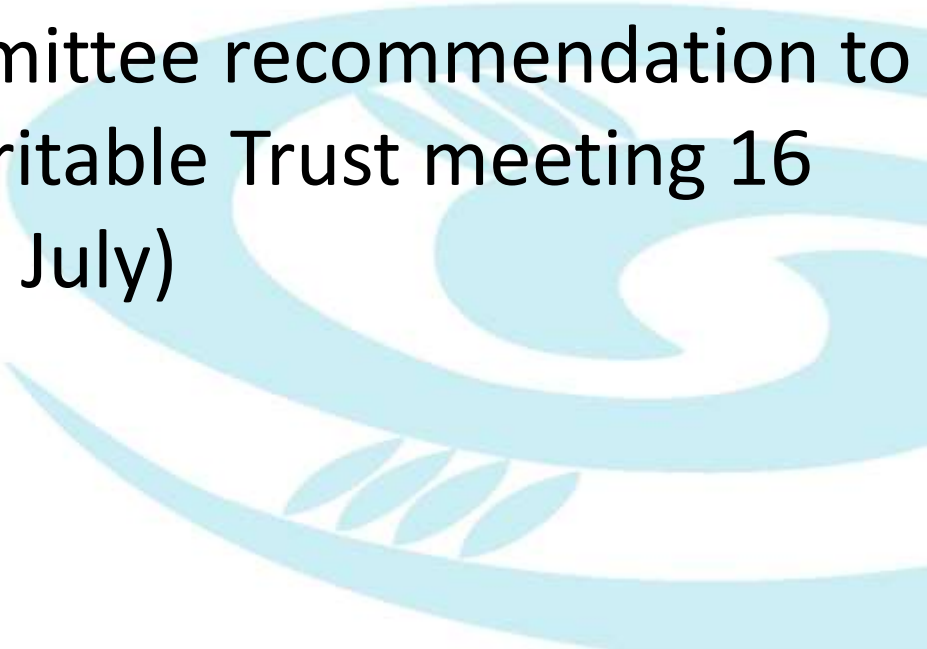
Proposes SNA map changes recommended by ecologists but with some moderation:

1. Exclude for other legal protection (conservation covenants, consent notices).
  2. Minor intrusions – not considered significant to protection of biodiversity.
  3. Where considered unreasonable on consideration costs and benefits
  4. Where not met test of giving land owners opportunity to present their views (Te Ngae wetlands, Te Manu Road)
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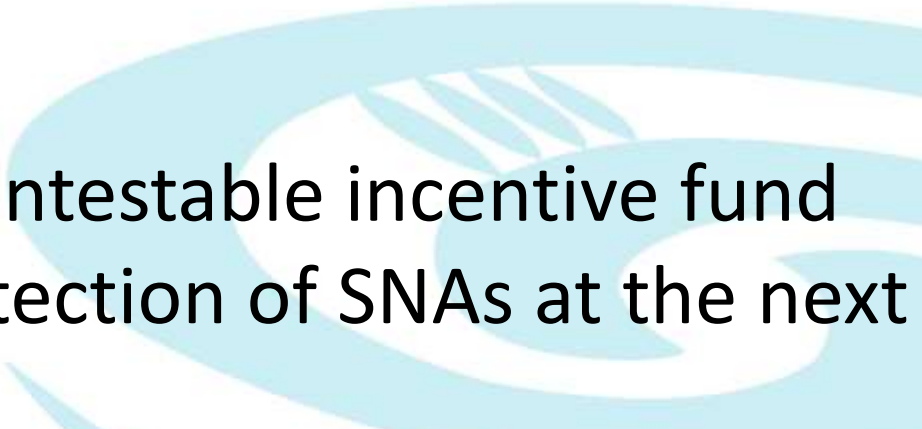
# Consultation - landowners

- Project guiding principle – give reasonable opportunity for landowners to present views.
  - Chased landowners that didn't respond to initial letter with follow up phone call/email (unless impact was very minor e.g. small boundary changes to geothermal sites)
  - About 60% of these approx 110 landowners responded
  - Moderated proposed plan change to address concerns while still addressing the RPS requirements to protect SNAs
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# Raukawa JMA

- JMA with Raukawa applies
    - Some sites are in JMA area (Waikato River Catchment)
    - Relevant to Te Ture Whaimana - the vision and strategy for the Waikato River (specific objective about protection of significant sites)
  - Joint Governance Committee recommendation to proceed (Raukawa Charitable Trust meeting 16 July & RLC members 12 July)
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## Other recommendations (RMA Policy Committee)

- Investigate amendment to rates remission policy at next annual plan
  - Amend fees and charges for processing resource consents - no fees for processing non-notified restoration / conservation activities or for walking tracks.
  - Council investigate a contestable incentive fund for restoration and protection of SNAs at the next LTP
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- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide. It features a stylized, light blue hand with fingers slightly curled, holding a leafy branch. The background behind the hand consists of several overlapping, curved, light blue bands that create a sense of motion or a circular path.