Appendix A - Biodiversity Offsetting Principles

The following sets out principles for the use of biodiversity offsets. It should be read in conjunction with the NZ government *Guidance on Good Practice Biodiversity Offsetting in New Zealand* August 2014 (or any successor Central Government guidance and standards document):

1. Restoration, enhancement and protection actions will only be considered a biodiversity offset where they are used to offset the anticipated residual effects of activities after appropriate avoidance, minimisation, remediation and mitigation actions have occurred as per the policies in *Policies 4.3.3 and 5.4.6 (policy number may change) ,* i.e. not in situations where they are used to mitigate adverse effects of activities. Biodiversity offsetting should not be applied to justify impacts on vulnerable and irreplaceable biodiversity values or biodiversity values which cannot be offset.

2. Restoration, enhancement and protection actions undertaken as a biodiversity offset are demonstrably additional to what otherwise would occur, including that they are additional to any remediation or mitigation undertaken in relation to the adverse effects of the activity.

3. Offset actions should be undertaken close to the location of development, where this will result in the best ecological outcome.

4. The values to be lost through the activity to which the offset applies are counterbalanced by the proposed offsetting activity which is at least commensurate with the adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity, so that the overall result is no net loss, and preferably a net gain in ecological values.

5. The offset is applied so that the ecological values being achieved through the offset are the same or similar to those being lost.

6. the positive ecological outcomes of the offset last at least as long as the impact of the activity, and preferably in perpetuity. Adaptive management responses should be incorporated into the design of the offset, as required to ensure that the positive ecological outcomes are maintained over time.

7. The biodiversity offset should be designed and implemented in a landscape context- i.e. with an understanding of both the donor and recipient sites role, or potential role in the ecological context of the area.

8. The protection and restoration actions undertaken as a biodiversity offset are delivered or demonstrated prior to the adverse effects occurring.

9. The consent application identifies the intention to utilise an offset, and includes a biodiversity offset management plan that:

    (a) sets out baseline information on all indigenous biodiversity~~)~~ that are potentially impacted by the proposal at both the donor and recipient sites:

(i) Originally rare ecosystem types (Williams *et al.* 2007);

(ii) Indigenous vegetation on wetlands and sand dunes;

(iii) Indigenous vegetation types;

(iv) Important fauna habitats;

(v) Threatened, At Risk, and locally uncommon species; and

(vi) Indigenous vertebrate fauna guilds, including each trophic level (herbivore, predator), feeding guilds of avifauna (insectivore, frugivore, nectivore, carnivore), and indigenous fish.

(b) includes clear objectives and performance criteria which demonstrates how the requirements set out in this appendix will be addressed;

(c) identifies the monitoring approach that will be used to demonstrate how the matters set out in this appendix have been addressed, over an appropriate timeframe.