

Auckland Council District Plan (Hauraki Gulf Islands section)

# Practice and Guidance note

## Vegetation Clearance

This Practice and Guidance note covers:

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Vegetation on sites](#)
3. [Vegetation on legal roads](#)
4. [Advice for property owners and applicants](#)

### **Disclaimer**

*The information in this practice and guidance note is, according to Auckland Council's best efforts, accurate at the time of publication. Auckland Council makes every reasonable effort to keep it current and accurate. However, users of the practice and guidance note are advised that:*

- *the information provided does not alter the Auckland Unitary Plan, Resource Management Act 1991 or other laws of New Zealand and other official guidelines and requirements.*
- *this document sets out general principles which may be used as guidance for matters relating to the interpretation and application of the Auckland Unitary Plan; it is not intended to interfere with, or fetter, the professional views and opinions of council officers when they are performing any function or exercising any power under the RMA. Each consent will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.*
- *Users should take specific advice from qualified professional people before undertaking any action as a result of information obtained in this practice and guidance note.*
- *Auckland Council does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever whether in contract, tort, equity or otherwise for any action taken as a result of reading or reliance placed on Auckland Council because of having read any part, or all, of the information in this practice and guidance note or for any error, or inadequacy, deficiency, flaw in or omission from the information provided in this publication.*

## 1 Introduction

Vegetation can make an important contribution to the natural character and the landscape, ecological and amenity values of the Hauraki Gulf Islands. In order to protect and maintain these values the [Auckland Council District Plan - Hauraki Gulf Islands section](#) (**District Plan**) controls the degree to which vegetation can be removed or altered. This includes consideration of:

- The species and height/area of vegetation
- Natural hazard risks such as removing vegetation from steep slopes or within wetlands and water body protection yards and
- District Plan Overlays, such as listed trees or ecologically significant areas.

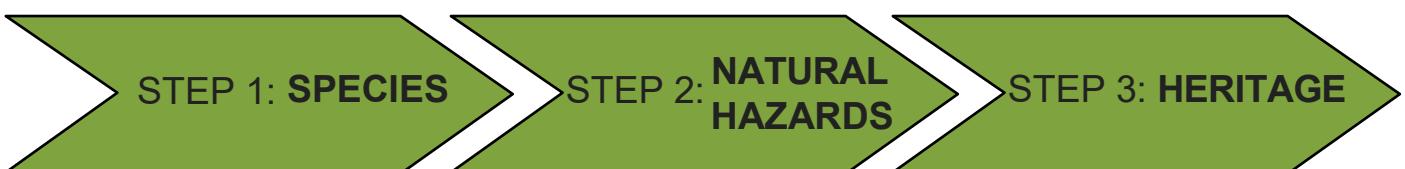
The following guidance has been prepared to assist you in identifying whether or not a resource consent is required when removing or altering vegetation on a site or legal road within the Hauraki Gulf Islands.

## 2 Vegetation on sites

The relevant rules relating to vegetation on sites in the Hauraki Gulf Islands are set out under the following sections of the District Plan:

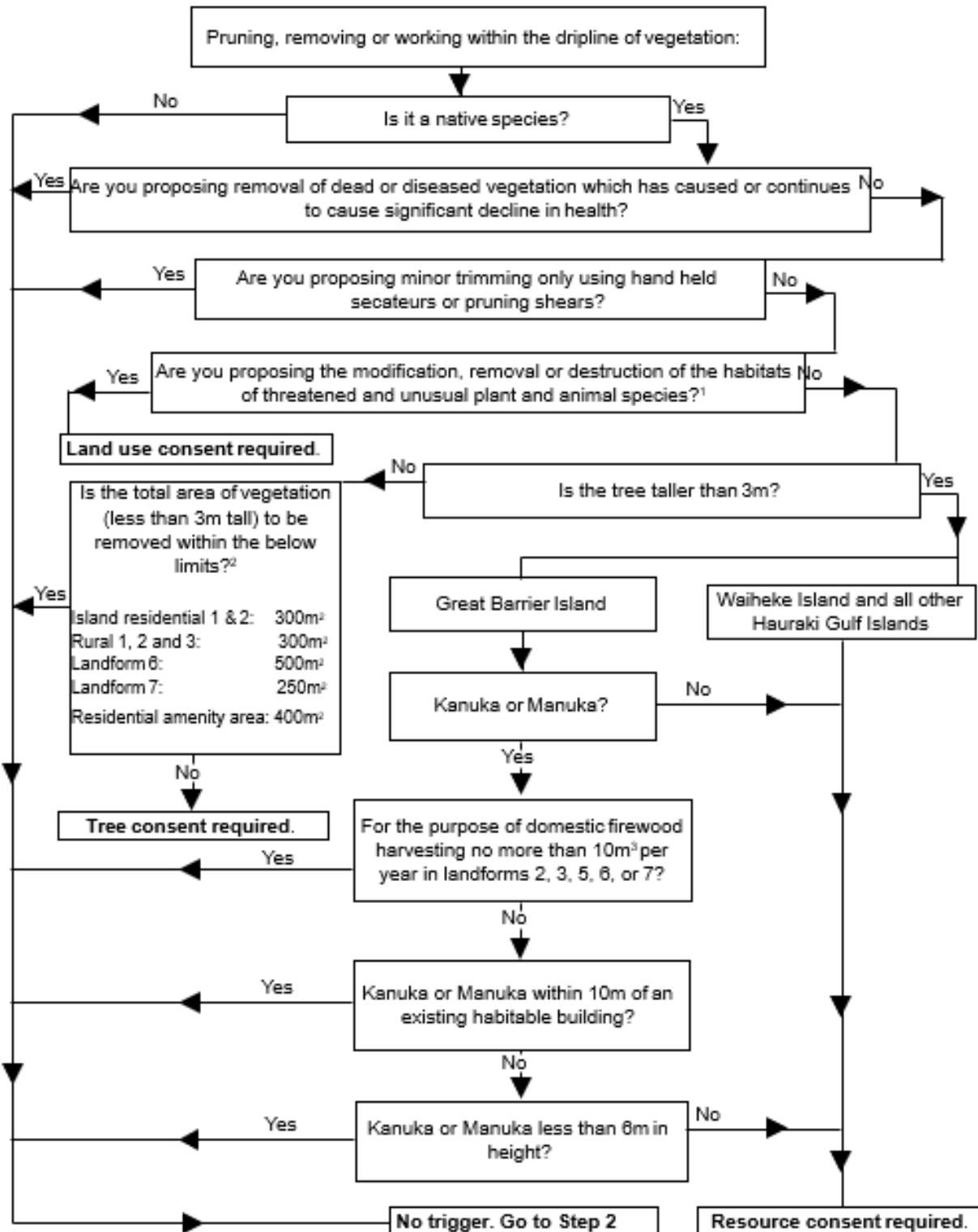
- 10c.5.1 - Step 1: Species
- 8.5.1 - Step 2: Natural Hazards
- 7.11 and 7.14 - Step 3: Heritage

These rules are summarised in the flowcharts below for quick reference and do not reflect the words in the rules' entirety. You must consider all three steps in order to determine whether or not a resource consent is required.



## Step 1 – Is the species of vegetation on the site protected?

The first step requires consideration of the vegetation species (native or exotic) and its height/area. If you are unsure of the species and its height/area you may need to speak with an arborist or contact the Council.

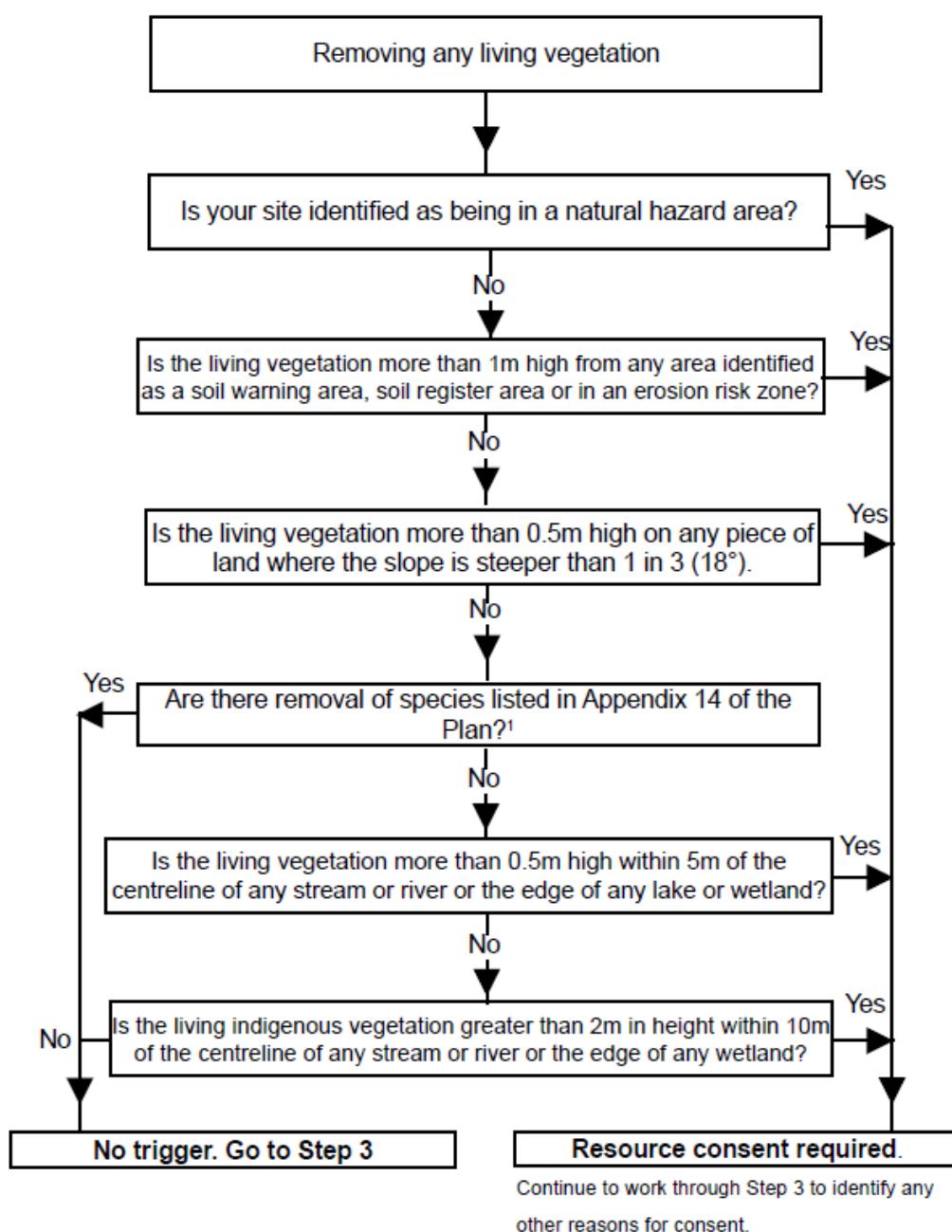


<sup>1</sup>Please refer to Appendix 6 of the District Plan for the list of threatened and unusual plant and animal species.

<sup>2</sup>Please see Part 10c of the District Plan if your land unit is not displayed.

## **Step 2 – will removing vegetation result in natural hazard risks?**

In addition to the considerations under Step 1 above, Step 2 requires consideration of the vegetation protection rules in relation to natural hazards. Vegetation, including both natives and exotics, can play an important role in the stability of slopes or within waterbody protection yards. To see if there is a natural hazard area on the site where the removal of vegetation is intended to take place, visit the District Plan planning maps. <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/hgi-district-plan/hgi-district-plan-maps/Pages/default.aspx>

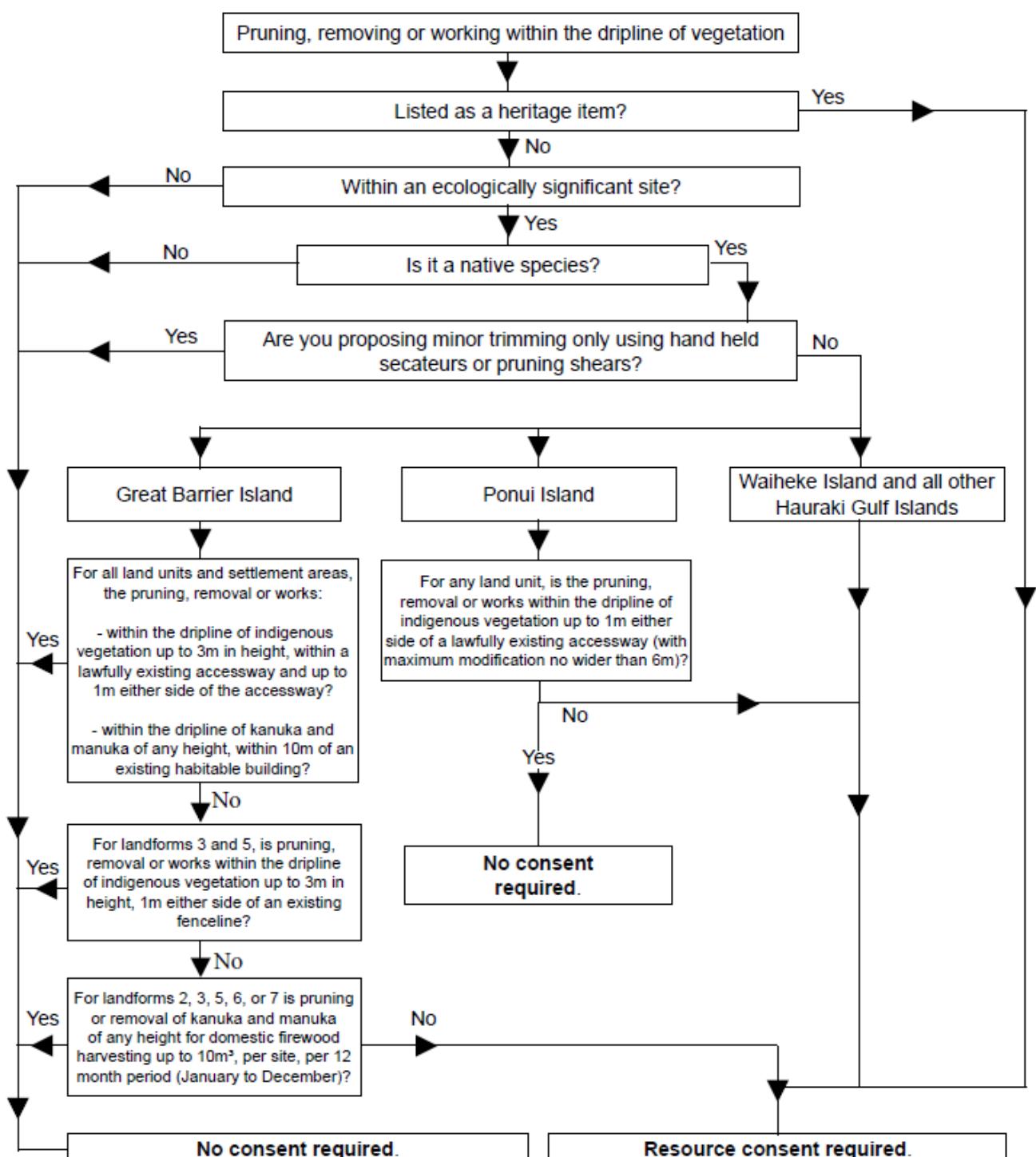


<sup>1</sup> Please refer to Appendix 14 of the District Plan for the full list of plant and animal pests.

### Step 3 – Is vegetation on my property protected by heritage controls?

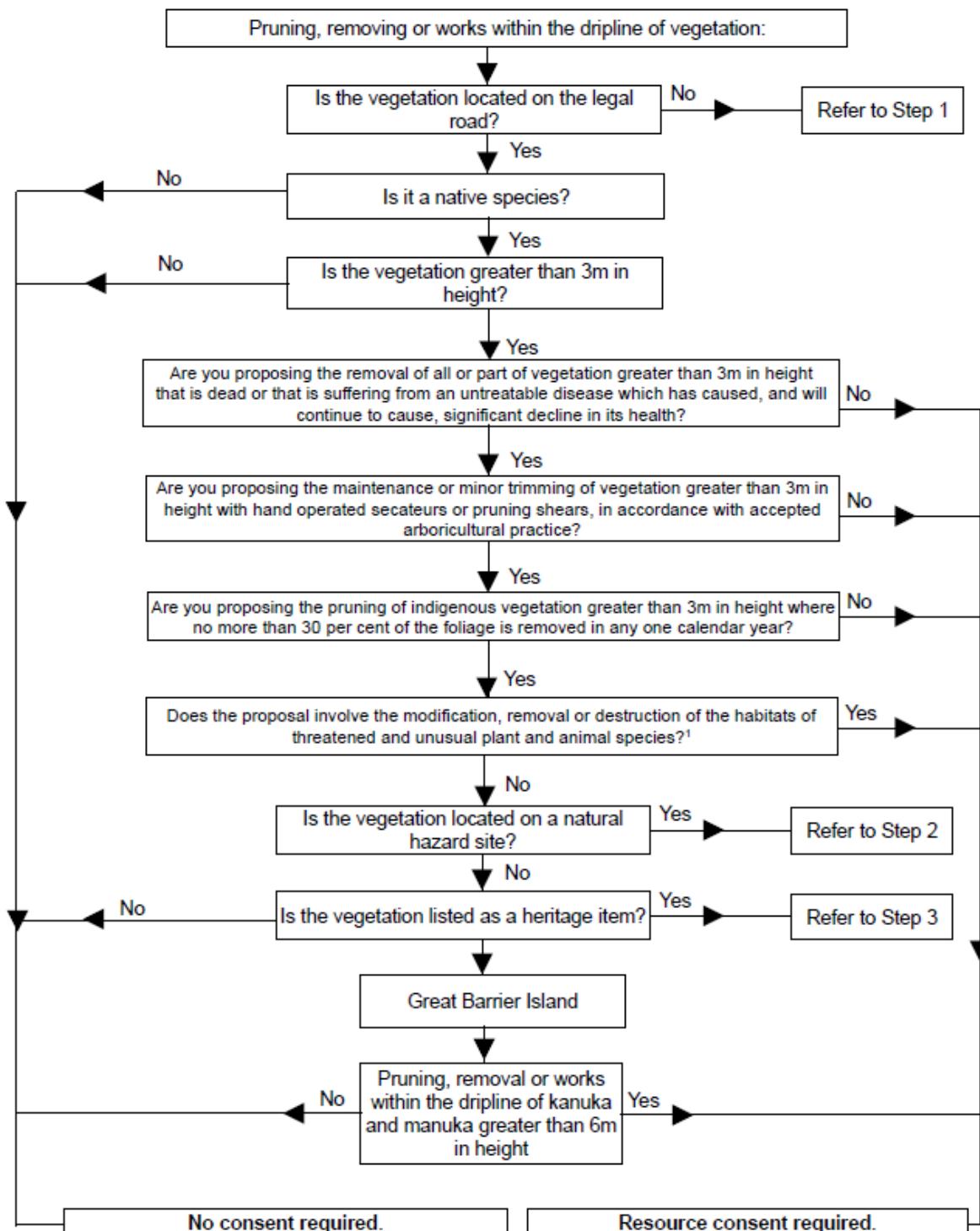
In addition to the considerations under Steps 1 and 2 above, Step 3 requires consideration of the vegetation rules in relation to heritage items. Relevant types of heritage items include ecologically significant sites and heritage listed trees. To see if either of these controls applies to the site, visit the [District Plan planning maps](#). Heritage listed trees are shown as  or  and sites of ecological significance are shown as 

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/hgi-district-plan/hgi-district-plan-maps/Pages/default.aspx>



### 3 Vegetation on legal roads

Vegetation located on the berm or within the road reserve is subject to different rules than those applying to vegetation on sites. The relevant rules relating to vegetation on sites in the Hauraki Gulf Islands set out in sections 10.5.1, 8.5.1, 7.11 and 7.14 of the District Plan. The rules are summarised in the flowcharts below for quick reference (and do not reflect the exact wording of the District Plan).



<sup>1</sup>Please refer to Appendix 6 of the District Plan for the list of threatened and unusual plant and animal species.

## **4 Advice for property owners and applicants**

- Ensure that you and your contractors have any necessary consents and approvals before doing the job.
- If the tree is located on the boundary or outside of your property boundary you will require the approval of the tree owner.
- Check your certificate of title for any covenants that include the protection of vegetation.
- All tree works should be undertaken in accordance with accepted arboricultural practice.
- If vegetation forms part of the habitat of a threatened or unusual species (as listed in appendix 6 of the District Plan - List of threatened and unusual plant and animal species), you cannot carry out any vegetation works without a resource consent. Always check for nests and avoid works during spring.
- To apply for a resource consent for tree works, and for more information on the resource consent process, please see the Auckland Council website:  
<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/building-and-consents/understanding-building-consents-process/apply-for-consent/Pages/Apply-for-a-resource-consent.aspx>