



Environment Activity Management Plan 2015-2025

October 2015

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Adopted: 15 October 2015

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Executive Summary

Environment Activity Management Plan 2015-25

This is Nelson City Council's first Environment Activity Management Plan (AMP). The AMP identifies Council's programme for environmental management, and describes Council's programmes for delivery against set priorities over the next 10 years, commencing 1 July 2015.

The following priorities have been developed in response to monitoring, community feedback and Nelson Plan development.

- Freshwater (including groundwater);
- Air;
- Marine and Coastal;
- Biodiversity;
- Built environment and land use;
- Waste management;
- Natural hazards.

This AMP covers the following programmes that give effect to these priorities:

- Planning – development of the Nelson Plan and the Air Plan;
- Regulation and enforcement – processing of resource consents and monitoring consent conditions;
- Environmental programmes – education, advice and assistance to individuals, landowners and groups;
- Monitoring and Research – including State of the Environment reporting.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. As a unitary authority, Nelson City Council has significant environmental management responsibilities. Council is also a significant land and asset owner so is in a strong position to model good environmental practices in the way it plans, builds, maintains and operates its network infrastructure and community assets.

Purpose

- 1.2. The purpose of the AMP is to describe Council's:

- Environmental management priorities;
- Environmental programmes;
- Levels of service;
- Resource requirements.

Legislative Context

- 1.3. Council's environmental programme is directed by:

National legislation:

- Resource Management Act 1991;
- National Policy Statements and Environmental Standards including:
 - National Policy Statement Freshwater;
 - National Environmental Standard Air Quality;
 - New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, and;
 - National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health;
 - National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities;
 - Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations.
- Local Government Act 2002;
- Biosecurity Act 1993;
- Te Tau Ihu Settlement Acts 2014 including:
 - Ngāti Kōata, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama Ki Te Tau Ihu, and Te Ātiawa O Te Waka-A-Maui Claims Settlement Act 2014;
 - Ngāti Apa Ki Te Rā Tō, Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne O Wairau Claims Settlement Act 2014; and
 - Ngati Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014.

Council’s strategic documents:

- Resource Management Plans;
- Nelson 2060 Strategy;
- Biodiversity Strategy;
- Other Activity and Asset Management Plans;
- Reserve Management Plans

Resource Management Plans

1.4. Nelson City Council, as a unitary authority, has both regional and territorial council functions to fulfil in achieving the purpose of the Resource Management Act (see s30-31 RMA). Council has a responsibility to ensure its resource management plans are kept up to date and reviewed every 10 years (see s79 RMA). Nelson has a number of resource management plans at different stages of development:

Plan	Focus	Review Date
Nelson Regional Policy Statement	Council’s overview of regional resource management issues outlining the region’s strategic direction	2007 (overdue for review)
Nelson Resource Management Plan	District, Regional, and Coastal Plan	2014 (apart from coastal and freshwater provisions which are due for review in 2016 and 2017 respectively)
Nelson Air Quality Plan	Management of Nelson’s air resource	Due for review in 2018/2019

1.5. Collectively these plans seek to achieve the sustainable management purpose of the RMA by providing an overview of the Region’s resource management issues, and by outlining objectives, policies and methods (including rules) for the integrated management of Nelson’s natural and physical resources. These plans set the direction for growth and development while protecting a range of values including our natural landscape, biodiversity, heritage, amenity values, and water and air quality.

1.6. Council has statutory obligations to monitor the state of the environment and the efficiency and effectiveness of resource management plans (s35 RMA).

1.7. Council also engages in a number of non-regulatory programmes that support the objectives established in Nelson’s resource management plans.

Nelson 2060 Strategy

1.8. In 2013 Council adopted the Nelson 2060 Strategy. This is a non-statutory document that provides a vision for a sustainable Nelson to be achieved by 2060. It also lists a number of key goals that need to be achieved in order for the vision to be realised.

Vision and Goals

1.9. Nelson 2060 sets out a vision for a sustainable Nelson. The summary states:

“Nelson 2060 is an inclusive city, with a diverse range of residents who can connect easily to each other and to the beautiful place we call home. Our inclusive leadership style supports our unique approach to living, which is boldly creative, ecologically exemplary, socially balanced and economically prosperous.”

1.10. The relevant goals from Nelson 2060 for this AMP are:

- Goal 1 – We support and encourage leaders across our community;
- Goal 2 – We are all able to be involved in decisions;
- Goal 3 – Our natural environment – air, land, rivers and sea – is protected and healthy;
- Goal 4 – We produce more of our own food;
- Goal 5 – We are able to rapidly adapt to change;
- Goal 6 – We move from using fossil fuels to renewable energy sources;
- Goal 7 – Our economy thrives and contributes to a vibrant and sustainable Nelson;
- Goal 8 - Nelson is the centre of learning and practice in Kaitiakitanga and sustainable development;
- Goal 9 – Everyone in our community has their essential needs met;
- Goal 10 – We reduce our consumption so that resources are shared more fairly.

Biodiversity Strategy

1.11. The Nelson Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by Council on 1 May 2007 and reviewed in 2009 and again in 2013. It was initiated and developed by a group of 26 partner organisations who continue to work together as the Nelson Biodiversity Forum to support Council to implement the strategy.

1.12. The purpose of the strategy is to create a biologically rich and sustainable future for Nelson through aligned action on biodiversity and it has the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1 - Active protection of native biodiversity

- Nga taonga tuku iho (the treasured resources), native species, and natural ecosystems of Nelson/Whakatu are protected and restored.
- Objective 1.1 - Ecological health, mauri and wairua of natural ecosystems are sustained.
- Objective 1.2 - Native biological diversity is restored, enhanced and, where appropriate, connected.

Goal 2 Ecologically sustainable use of biodiversity

- The community has the living resources it needs, and has minimised adverse effects on valued biodiversity.
- Objective 2.1 - Biodiversity use is ecologically sustainable.
- Objective 2.2 - Biodiversity resources are available for the community to prosper including tangata whenua customary use of nga taonga tuku iho.

1.13. The focus of the strategy is on aligned action on biodiversity by responsible agencies and the community. Biodiversity is the full range of living things that interact with one another and their environment - the web of life.

Other Activity and Asset Management Plans

1.14. The following Council Activity and Asset Management Plans are relevant for the Environment activity:

AMP	Relevant priorities/issues covered
Water Supply; Wastewater; and Stormwater/Flood Protection Asset Management Plans	Water quality Resource consent renewals
Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan	Biodiversity Landscape Amenity Tahuna Beach erosion
Solid Waste Asset Management Plan	Waste minimisation programme
Heritage Activity Management Plan	Heritage incentives
Transport Asset Management Plan	Vehicle network Cycling network Pedestrian network Public transport
Building & Regulatory Activity Management Plan	LIMS Building consents

1.15. The way that these Asset and Activity Management Plans are implemented is critical to the achievement of the Environment AMP. As a significant land and asset owner, Council is in a strong position to model good environmental practices in the way it plans, builds, maintains and operates its network infrastructure and community assets. The Environment AMP sets the foundation for environmental matters that should then be reflected in the other AMPs.

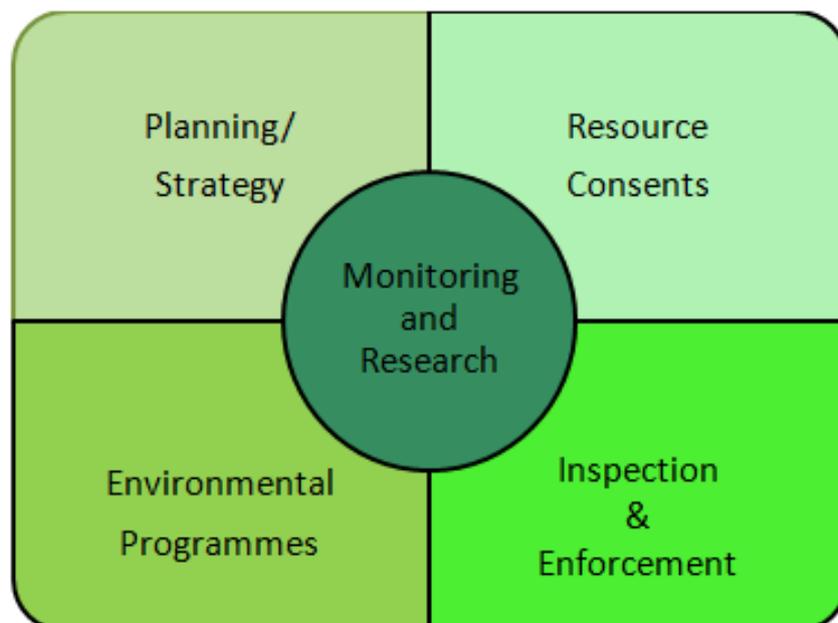
Community Outcomes

1.16. The environment activity contributes to the community outcomes in the following ways:

Community outcomes	How this Council activity contributes to achieving outcome
Our unique natural environment is healthy and protected.	This activity helps to protect and restore the Nelson environment through sound planning, monitoring, biodiversity initiatives and waste management.
Our urban and rural environments are people-friendly, well planned and sustainably managed	Good planning and urban design provides an attractive, safe and walkable city for people of all ages and abilities. Housing choice is broadened and land used more efficiently.
Our communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and resilient	The community is supported to understand what an acceptable level of risk is for flooding and to deal with resilience to other natural hazards.
Our region is supported by an innovative and sustainable economy	Council has a business friendly approach in its regulatory and planning structures.

Plan Structure

- 1.17. Section 1 of this plan is the introduction and sets the background for the rest of the document. Section 2 looks at how we deliver the work programmes of the business units. Section 3 describes the key focus areas and details the different activities that will take place in each of these areas. Section 4 lists the proposed Levels of Service for the Environment Activity. Section 5 details factors affecting the future work that will be required to meet the Levels of Service, and section 6 onwards contains supporting financial information.



2. How The Environment Activity Is Delivered

- 2.1. The Environment Activity is delivered by the following teams: The Planning, Resource Consents, Inspection and Enforcement, Environmental Programmes, and monitoring and research functions have recently been brought together within the Strategy and Environment Group. A core driver for this change has been to bring the environmental (regulatory and non-regulatory) and policy and implementation functions together. This approach recognises that policy development is usefully informed by implementation and monitoring outcomes. It also recognises that policy outcomes can be delivered through both regulatory and non-regulatory programmes.
- 2.2. The Planning team is responsible for the review and development of the Regional Policy Statement, District and Regional Resource Management Plans. These Plans set objectives, policies and rules for management of the Region's resources. The Planning team also develops Council's strategies and policies such as bylaws, reserve management plans and the Heritage Strategy.

What we do	Why we do it
Nelson Resource Management Plan and Nelson Air Quality Plan	To fulfil statutory requirements of the RMA and to ensure the integrated management of Nelson's natural and physical resources
Provide Planning/Strategic advice	To enable the community to make informed decisions

- 2.3. The Resource Consents team processes applications for activities covered by the Resource Management Plans. They ensure the objectives, policies and rules are applied when consents are issued.

What we do	Why we do it
Processing of resource consents	To fulfil statutory requirements of the RMA; to ensure that adverse effects of activities, development and land uses are avoided, remedied or mitigated; to ensure that the objectives of the NRMP and other Plans and Standards are addressed.
Monitor and enforce resource consent conditions and 'permitted' activities	To fulfil statutory requirements of the RMA; to ensure that adverse effects of activities, development and land uses are avoided, remedied or mitigated; to ensure that the objectives of the NRMP and other Plans and Standards are addressed.
Provide planning, property, consenting information	To provide information to property owners to enable them to make informed decisions.

- 2.4. The Monitoring and Enforcement of resource consent conditions and 'permitted activities' is contracted to Environmental Inspections Ltd (EIL). Other functions of EIL are covered by the Building and Regulatory AMP.

- 2.5. The Environmental Programmes team delivers non-regulatory programmes such as environmental education and the provision of advice and assistance to landowners and community groups.

What we do	Why we do it
Biodiversity/land management advice	To improve the habitat for native flora and fauna
Water quality management	To work with iwi and the community to improve the in-stream values of our waterways
Air quality promotion	To minimise emissions to air
Eco Building Design Advice	To provide impartial advice to property owners on environmentally friendly ways to keep their home warm and healthy
Waste minimisation programme	To reduce the amount of waste disposed of to landfill
Heritage incentives	To encourage and enable protection and maintenance of heritage buildings
Enviroschools Programme Management	To promote an action-based approach to education through which children and young people plan, design and implement sustainable projects and become catalysts for change in their families and the wider community

- 2.6. The above activities are supported by environmental monitoring and research to ensure fact-based decision making across Council.

What we do	Why we do it
State of Environment Monitoring, including:	To fulfil statutory requirements of the RMA (section 35); to provide information to inform our policy/plan development and our community
Air Quality Monitoring	To track progress and inform actions contributing to NES Air Quality objectives
Freshwater Quality Monitoring	To track progress and inform actions contributing to NPS Freshwater
Hydrology	To identify and take action when low flows are measured
Recreational Bathing Water monitoring	To ensure the safety of residents using recreational waters
Envirolink programme	To utilise research for practical outcomes

Other Activities

- 2.7. A range of other activities are also delivered with environmental objectives. These are driven by pieces of legislation other than the RMA, although they will still contribute to resource management plan objectives.

Regional Pest Management Strategy

2.8. The Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012-2017 came into effect on 7 November 2012. It contains relatively few changes to the previous Strategy as the newly amended Biosecurity Act requires a major review to be undertaken over the next two years. The purpose of this Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) is to provide a framework for efficient and effective pest management in the Tasman-Nelson Region so as to:

- minimise actual and potential unintended effects associated with the organisms identified as pests;
- maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management action by way of a regionally co-ordinated response.

2.9. Tasman District Council is the management agency for implementation of the RPMS across Nelson and Tasman. Council provides funding and officer support for various initiatives.

Marine Biosecurity

2.10. Nelson's coastal waters are under threat from invasive marine species. These have the potential to impact on the ecology of Tasman Bay and on the marine economy that the Bay supports. Council is a founding member of the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. It co-funds the Partnership along with Tasman and Marlborough District Councils and the Ministry for Primary Industries. The goals of the Partnership are to enable the integrated management of marine biosecurity through:

- clear leadership;
- consistent and co-ordinated operations;
- efficient, effective sustained action;
- wide public support and community engagement.

Waste minimisation

2.11. In 2012 Council adopted a Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan with Tasman District Council, as required under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. The plan provides common goals, objectives and policies across the region, to reduce waste and increase recycling. There is also flexibility for each council to choose different methods to achieve results.

What we do	Why we do it
Regional Pest Management Strategy	To minimise the risks posed by weeds and pests on native biodiversity
Marine Biosecurity	To minimise the risk of invasive marine species impacting on the Tasman Bay environment and industry
Waste minimisation	To reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill

3. Key Focus Areas

- 3.1. In September 2014 the Council confirmed the following strategic outcomes for the Nelson Plan:

City Development

- 3.2. The City will be a vibrant, attractive place in which people can live, work, and play, and in which business can operate successfully now and into the future.

This outcome will be achieved by providing for growth and development in a way that:

- Creates a vibrant and attractive City;
- Co-ordinates Growth and Infrastructure;
- Connects communities;
- Adapts to our hazards;
- Looks after our heritage;
- Achieves natural resource outcomes.

Natural Resources

- 3.3. Natural resources should be managed in an integrated and sustainable way to maintain and enhance natural, ecological, recreational, human health and safety, and cultural values.

This outcome will be achieved by creating:

- Clean and Accessible water;
- Healthy Coastal and Marine Areas;
- Enhanced Natural Areas and Landscapes;
- Clean Air.

- 3.4. These strategic outcomes inform the levels of service for the Environment AMP.

Efficiency and Effectiveness Review

- 3.5. A range of environmental issues have recently been comprehensively considered along with significant national policy changes. These matters were captured in the NRMP Efficiency and Effectiveness review in 2012/2013. The review highlighted the existing plan provisions that are working well and do not need changing. Key areas identified for improvement include:

- Managing growth and development – particularly retail location, land use and infrastructure integration, and residential development in sensitive environments;
- The need to recognise a wider representative range of Nelson's heritage;
- Better management of natural hazards;
- Improving our water management to address flooding, public access and water quality issues;

- Coastal management – particularly provision for aquaculture, management of coastal hazards, and landscape protection;
- Enhanced protection of Nelson's special biodiversity and landscape values;
- The need to work with iwi on an ongoing basis.

Community Feedback

- 3.6. The 2014 residents' survey sought a range of community feedback.
- 3.7. When asked what they felt is the single most important environmental issue facing Nelson, there were a range of responses, led by water pollution (12%), flooding (11%), and air pollution (9%). Almost a third were unsure.
- 3.8. When asked to rate the importance of specific issues:
- stream/river water quality was highest overall (91% saying it was important)
 - the coastal environment (88%)
 - marine water quality (86%)
 - waste minimisation (82%)
 - natural hazards (80%)
 - air quality (76%)
 - natural habitats/ecosystems (74%)
 - natural landscapes (68%)
 - housing choice and affordability (65%)
 - heritage buildings and sites (57%)
- 3.9. There has also been a range of community feedback gathered recently through the development of the Biodiversity Strategy, consideration of woodburner use, and community discussion about the Maitai River.
- 3.10. The focus areas outlined above will be addressed in the following ways:

Resource Management Planning – Nelson Plan

- 3.11. As noted, an assessment of Council's resource management functions occurred in 2013 and the Council has resolved to undertake a combined review of the Nelson Regional Policy Statement (review was due in 2007) and Nelson Resource Management Plan (review largely due in 2014) rather than an issue based, rolling review as programmed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan. The Council also resolved that, where a specific resource management issue arises, a targeted Plan Change may occur separate to the full review, although it is noted this would significantly impede the progress of a single Plan. Consequently, work done to inform the resource management planning programme, including research for the Nelson Development Strategy, has been halted and collated to inform a full plan review – The Nelson Plan. The Nelson Plan will be an integrated planning approach and its development will be completed by year five (2019/2020). Community engagement on the Nelson Plan will occur throughout

2015/2016 with notification in 2016/2017. Hearings and decisions will be in 2016/2017 – 2018/2019.

Air Quality

- 3.12. There have been great gains made in Nelson's air quality over the last decade through significant investment by Council and the community. Community concerns however, have been raised about the impact of the Nelson Air Quality Plan on woodburner use and the number of people living in cold homes. A Woodburner Working Party reported back to Council in late 2014. Council decided to bring the review of the Nelson Air Quality Plan forward and incorporate it into the Nelson Plan with priority.
- 3.13. Financial assistance for home insulation leveraging third party funding has been provided for 3 years. Council's contribution will be combined with that from other third party funders and matched by the government agency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA).

Heritage

- 3.14. The Whakatu Nelson Heritage Strategy identifies the need to take a regulatory and non-regulatory approach to heritage management.
- 3.15. The Heritage assistance programme acknowledges the private costs for protecting heritage for public benefit. These costs are rising, in part due to increasing hazards such as earthquake risk and water damage.
- 3.16. Council's Heritage Activity Management Plan proposes a review of the Heritage assistance programme. There is considerable demand for the Heritage Project Fund with over \$200,000 regularly being applied for. This Environment AMP increases the level of funding provided. Non-regulatory support is critical to successful retention of Nelson's significant heritage resource.

Freshwater Management

- 3.17. Central Government has amended to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFW). The purpose of the amendments is to achieve improved and more consistent management of freshwater around New Zealand. The changes to the national framework will support the Council's intention to improve water quality where it is degraded.
- 3.18. Council will consider how it gives effect to the NPSFW as part of the Nelson Plan review. In the short term Council intends to undertake a range of non-regulatory responses including the following: catchment management planning (see below regarding the Maitai Catchment), working with community stream care and monitoring groups, riparian planting and fencing, monitoring and investigating water quality issues, working with iwi and with landowners, and ensuring our infrastructure works achieve our environmental objectives. Changes will also be needed to how Council monitors our freshwater quality and quantity to align with the NPSFW. These works are scheduled to take place across years one to ten.

Maitai Catchment

- 3.19. The Maitai River is significant to the Nelson community. Council recognises the importance of improving the River's water quality and is proposing to undertake environmental projects in years one to three. This is an investment in some immediate steps to restore natural values and function in the Maitai River. Flood mitigation works are likely to extend beyond this. The potential to expand this approach to other rivers in the Region is considered prudent.

Nelson Nature

- 3.20. Council adopted a programme of actions supporting the Nelson Biodiversity Strategy in 2014. A number of key actions were identified by the Nelson Biodiversity Forum and Council will use these as a basis to develop a new Biodiversity Management Programme ("Nelson Nature") which will provide much more extensive targeted support to ensure key habitats in our Region are protected and enhanced. This includes terrestrial, coastal (cliffs, dunes and estuaries) and freshwater ecosystems. The programme comprises of 10 separate projects based on ecosystems, management regimes and land ownership.
- 3.21. It is proposed to establish comprehensive baseline data to determine the current condition of these ecosystems with the view that future measurements will determine whether the programme is succeeding and to identify where efforts should be targeted.

Monitoring and Research

- 3.22. Good environmental policy can only be developed when there is a good understanding of the system in question. This means that monitoring and research efforts should be targeted at the priority issues rather than spread across all environmental domains.

Consents and Compliance

- 3.23. The Policy direction and provisions of the Nelson Resource Management Plan / Nelson Plan will influence what activities require resource consent. The resource consent function will adapt to any changes in priority and direction in the Nelson Plan, the Resource Management Act itself, National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards. The focus of 'permitted activity' monitoring carried out by Environmental Inspections Limited will be determined annually in response to particular issues identified.

4. Levels of Service

Introduction

- 4.1. A key objective of this AMP is to match what we do in providing the service as required by law and in accordance with expectations of the community and their willingness to pay for the service. Activity management planning requires a clear understanding of why we do what we do, and to specify the levels of service delivered. The levels of service are intended:

- to inform people of the proposed type and level of service to be offered (now and in the future);
 - as a focus for the work required to deliver the agreed level of service;
 - to enable people to assess suitability, affordability and equity of the services offered.
- 4.2. There are many factors that need to be considered when deciding what level of service the Council will aim to provide. These factors include:
- Council needs to aim to understand and meet the needs and expectations of the community;
 - Council must meet its statutory obligations;
 - The services must be operated within Council policy and objectives;
 - The community must be able to fund the level of service provided.
- 4.3. To this end levels of service have been designed to align with community feedback, Council strategies, and the Nelson Plan programme.

What Council will provide	Performance Measures	Targets year 1-3	Targets in years 4-10	How
Clean Air	Compliance with national air quality standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airshed A – no more than three breaches by September 2016 • Airsheds B and C – no more than one breach by September 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than one breach in Airshed A by Sept 2020 • Ongoing compliance in Airsheds B and C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Plan • Nelson Air Quality Plan • Education • Eco-design advice • Home heating and insulation funding • Monitoring and reporting • Working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi • Consents and compliance
Clean and Accessible Water	<p>Water quality values</p> <p>Health of Nelson's freshwater environments measured by water body classification and can't degrade below its current level as per National Policy Statement Fresh Water Management (NPS FWM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Project Maitai • Improve water quality via Nelson Nature • Incorporate community water values in Nelson Plan <p>In 2013 there were 12 sites with grade A or B water and 12 sites worse than grade C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain class A and B water bodies in current state • Decrease number of bodies classified as D or E • All rivers exceed 'National bottom line' for all attributes (NPS FWM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Nelson Nature • Deliver catchment-based projects <p>Maintain class A and B water bodies in current state</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease number of bodies classified as D or E • All rivers exceed 'A' or 'B' for all attributes (NPS FWM) <p>Maitai catchment 'A' for all attributes (NPS FWM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Plan • Enhanced freshwater funding • Alignment of infrastructure and Parks and Reserves AMPs with Environment AMP • Working with Te Tau Ihu Trust • Monitoring and reporting • 30 year growth and infrastructure strategy • Working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi • Consents and compliance • Education

What Council will provide	Performance Measures	Targets year 1-3	Targets in years 4-10	How
	Level of compliance with swimming water quality standards	100% of monitored swimming areas meet the swimming quality standards	Maintain	
Protection of Nelson's unique heritage sites and buildings	Number of heritage sites and buildings that are identified for protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify regulatory and non-regulatory options for protection of heritage buildings and sites Review Whakatu Nelson Heritage Strategy Incorporate heritage approach into Nelson Plan 	Deliver Whakatu Nelson Heritage Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nelson Plan Enhanced heritage funding and other non-regulatory mechanisms Monitoring and reporting Consents and compliance Heritage AMP Working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi
Protection and enhancement of Nelson's landscape and ecological values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area & condition of indigenous vegetation Native bird and fish population diversity & abundance The health of managed sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a baseline from which future progress can be assessed Develop and deliver Nelson Nature Incorporate biodiversity values into Nelson Plan 	Deliver Nelson Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nelson Plan Education Enhanced funding Alignment of infrastructure and Parks and Reserves AMPs with Environment AMP Working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi Monitoring and reporting Consents and compliance
Management of Biosecurity risk	Achievement of Biosecurity objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Regional Pest Management Strategy Deliver Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Regional Pest Management Strategy Deliver Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Pest Management Strategy Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy Nelson Nature Alignment of Parks and Reserves AMP with Environment AMP

What Council will provide	Performance Measures	Targets year 1-3	Targets in years 4-10	How
Reduced waste to landfill	Amount (tonnes) of waste per resident sent to landfill	Continue each year to decrease the per capita amount of waste from Nelson City Council area disposed of at landfill	Maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Solid Waste AMP • Joint Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
State of the Environment monitoring and reporting	Compliance with national standards and requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver regional state of the environment programme • Develop and deliver regional environmental research programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver regional state of the environment programme • Deliver regional environmental research programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Plan • Nelson State of Environment programme • NCC environmental research programme • Consents and compliance
<p>A well planned city that meets the community's current and future needs</p> <p>Creation of a vibrant and attractive City</p> <p>Co-ordinated Growth and Infrastructure</p>	Development and implementation of Nelson Plan	<p>Development of Nelson Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement on Nelson Plan 2015/16 • Notification 2016/17 • Hearings and decisions 2016/17 – 2018/19 • Develop Centre Plans and non-regulatory methods • Services and growth prioritised to areas close to existing services and shops • Key strategic transport linkages are identified in the Nelson Plan 	<p>Development and implementation of Nelson Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearings and decisions 2016/17 – 2018/19 • Services are established according to priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Plan • Working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi • Engaging with the community • Nelson Plan design and density controls • Urban Design Panel • By-Laws • Community Facilities and Arts AMP • Monitoring pedestrian counts and density in and around City Centre, Victory, Stoke, Tahunanui • 30 year growth and infrastructure Strategy • Development contributions policy • Transport and Parks & Reserves AMPs

What Council will provide	Performance Measures	Targets year 1-3	Targets in years 4-10	How
Connected communities Hazard adaptation Healthy Coastal and Marine Areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate known hazards and associated risks • Work with the community to develop acceptable hazard solutions via the Nelson Plan • Continued investigation of hazards and risks • Review coastal provisions of Nelson Plan • Enhance coastal water quality • Deliver Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy • Deliver Nelson Nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate known hazards and associated risks • Work with the community to develop acceptable hazard solutions via the Nelson Plan • Continued investigation of hazards and risks • Review coastal provisions of Nelson Plan • Enhance coastal water quality • Deliver Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy • Deliver Nelson Nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consents and compliance • Building consents • Regional Pest Management Strategy • Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy • Nelson Nature • Alignment of infrastructure AMPs with Environment AMP • Tasman Bay Working Group • Port Nelson Environmental Management Plan

What Council will provide	Performance Measures	Targets year 1-3	Targets in years 4-10	How
Regulatory programme (resource consents and compliance)	Compliance with statutory timeframes	100% of non-notified resource consents processed within 20 working days. 100% of notified/limited notified consents processed within 130 working days, 100% of limited notified consents processed within 100 working days (or less as required by RMA).	Maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Te Tau Ihu Iwi • Major projects team • Pre-application advice • Urban design panel
	Achievement of Resource Management Plan objectives via annual regulatory reporting	Annual reporting	Produce Efficiency and Effectiveness Report 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring, compliance, and policy integration
	Compliance monitoring programme informs policy development	Develop and deliver an annual compliance monitoring programme	Deliver annual compliance monitoring programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Plan • Consents • Monitoring programme
An effective and timely Civil Defence Emergency Management Response to support our community following emergency events	Ability to operate an effective Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for Nelson Tasman	100% of EOC management and CDEM Group roles staffed. EOC meets Ministry of CDEM 'monitoring and evaluation' requirements	Maintain	

5. Future Work

Factors Affecting Delivery and Demand for Activity

5.1. Council recognises that future demands for Environmental Management will be influenced by:

- Population and economic growth and demographic change;
- Changes in community expectations;
- Environmental changes such as natural hazards;
- Changes in legislation and planning documents;
- Changes in the environmental risk profile.

5.2. The impact of these influencing factors on the demand for Environmental Management and the effect on the current scale and mode of delivery is discussed below.

Population and Economic Growth and Demographic Change

5.3. The rate of population growth anticipated in the region is likely to be reflected in a proportionate increase in activity levels within this function. In addition, demographic change, such as an increasing median age of the city's population and the continuing immigration, could result in changing values and expectations of the community that require planning responses.

5.4. While overall numbers of resource consents have been declining, it is worth noting that consent applications have become more complex in nature. The number and type of consents received is also dependent upon Resource Management Plan rules and what activities the Plan requires consent for. The Council is embarking on a full plan review and the impact of this on the number and type of resource consent applications is yet unknown.

5.5. The Government has also signalled changes to the Resource Management Act some of which will have impacts on timeframe requirements for the processing of resource consents and development of Resource Management Plans. The Ministry for the Environment is introducing a new National Monitoring System which will include changes to what information needs to be gathered and how. The full impact of these changes is not yet known.

5.6. The resource consent business unit will need to ensure it has flexibility to adapt and respond to any future changes in a way that maintains current performance and customer service levels.

Trends in Community Expectations

5.7. The 2014 Residents Survey, indicates that the key focus area for the environment activity is correctly positioned. An increasing level of awareness of environmental issues, pressure on land and other resources as work progresses will mean Council will have to lead and respond to such community views.

Environmental Changes Such As Natural Hazards

- 5.8. Changing patterns of weather, long term changes in the climate or the occurrence of natural hazards will affect the rate and scope of policy responsiveness that is required concerning land and water use and associated risks such as increased pest risk exposure, sudden and severe weather systems, increasing drought risk and the increased incidence of storm driven seawater inundation of low-lying coastal land. The likelihood of new pest incursions arising for reasons other than climate change is also an issue we are starting to see which is not easy to anticipate. There is an expectation that Local Government will respond proactively to the consequence of climate change. Government scientists have given a strong and consistent message that climate change is likely to result in an increase in the frequency, geographical range and intensity of adverse weather events.

Changes in Legislation and Policies

- 5.9. Changes to Environmental Management Activity policies will be driven from a number of political directions. They could be internally driven through Council or externally by other organisations such as the Government or other agencies. Council will continue to monitor these factors when reviewing and developing forecasts and strategies.
- 5.10. The government signalled changes to the RMA in 2013. These changes seek to deliver a single Resource Management Plan based on a national template and amendments to the purpose of the RMA to include hazards, land supply, and provision for infrastructure. The development of the Nelson Plan, as proposed, will align with this proposed reform.

Changes in the Environmental Risk Profile

- 5.11. Through various resource management actions the risk of adverse effects from resource use activities should diminish. Where this applies, monitoring programmes or sites within monitoring programmes should be reduced. External factors such as natural hazards may increase the risk of effects from certain activities. This may mean more monitoring to assess these effects.

Renewals Capital Expenditure and Depreciation

- 5.12. This activity uses Council buildings and office equipment and vehicles which are managed as part of the business overheads. The only other capital cost is involved in providing and maintaining a reliable environmental monitoring system and these capital costs are low.

Future Programme

- 5.13. Unless the Government or Council introduce new legislation or regulations, no new categories of business costs are expected except those likely to arise as a result of increased activity levels.

Funding the Annual Net Cost

- 5.14. The current funding sources available for environmental activities include:

- general rate;
- voluntary targeted rate;
- grants;
- sponsorship;
- sales;
- sundry income;
- fees and charges recovery.

6. Financial Information

Funding Issues

Planning/Strategy Advice

- 6.1. The public generally benefits from Council having an ability and willingness to respond to national initiatives which might otherwise impact on Council's business. This sub-activity receives funding from the general rate. Opportunities for recoveries are limited. Currently the ratio is a Public 100%, Private 0% split.

Resource Management Policies and Plans

- 6.2. Council considers that the community as a whole benefits through having in place a planning framework for promoting sustainable management of natural and physical resources and minimising biosecurity risk. It receives a small contribution through plan sales and application fees for private plan changes. The balance coming from general rate. The funding ratio is Public 100%, Private 0% split.

Environmental information

- 6.3. The public generally benefits from Council having a good understanding of environmental pressures and trends and the state of resources in the region, the information about which can go towards making good policy and consent decisions. The public also benefits from having in place a system for monitoring and responding to hazard events. Currently the ratio is a Public 100%, Private 0% split.

Resource Consents

- 6.4. The Consents and Compliance Business Unit is responsible for a variety of functions that have an element of cost recovery. While some charges are set by statute, other statutes give local authorities the power to set charges. Funding is achieved by Council through a mix of general rates, fees and charges, and infringement fees and fines. The level of cost recovery from applicants affects the level of ratepayer funding that is required.
- 6.5. Fees and charges aim to recover about 50% of the total resource consent activity costs as resource consent staff typically spend 50% of their time processing resource consents. At least 30% of resource consent staff time is

spent responding to public enquiries with the other 20% spent on training, professional development, business unit and organisational meetings and other employee responsibilities. Rates cover 50% of resource consent activity costs.

6.6. The activities with a non-recoverable cost basis include:

- Monitoring of permitted Nelson Resource Management Plan standards (although some fines are recovered from enforcement action if rule breaches are discovered);
- The provision of a general enquiry service by resource consents staff to assist members of the public to understand general planning requirements. Customers (external and internal) either make appointments to see a duty planner, send emails, phone or walk in to the Customer Service Centre. There is provision to charge people after 30 minutes but in practice this has not occurred due to appointments generally taking less than half an hour;
- Assessing and deciding on objections to consent conditions or costs;
- Staff time and legal costs associated with resource consent appeals;
- Staff time and most legal costs associated with enforcement actions although some recovery is obtained through fines and costs awarded by the Court;
- Investigating and resolving claims of Council errors in processing applications;
- Staff time assisting the Hearings panel for non-RMA matters.

6.7. Resource consent holders pay for the entire cost of monitoring and enforcing their consent conditions.

6.8. The Resource Management Act 2009 Amendments included the introduction of a Discount Policy should the consent:

- be processed outside the statutory timeframes; and
- it was the fault of the Council.

6.9. The discount came into effect on 31 July 2010. The default discount is 1% of the consent processing costs per day the consent was late, up to a maximum of 50% of the costs of the consent. Councils can choose to give a more generous discount than the default.

6.10. There is a level of financial risk to the Council associated with not achieving statutory timeframes.

Development Contributions

6.11. The Local Government Act does not allow the cost of developing and administering the Development Contributions Policy to be offset against monies collected for future capital works. This sub-activity receives funding from the general rate. Opportunities for recoveries are limited. Currently the ratio is a Public 100%, Private 0% split.

Compliance

- 6.12. In relation to compliance activities, the cost of monitoring consents is 100% recovered from consent holders through section 36 RMA charges as the consent holder is seen as the beneficiary. Some income is secured through recoveries, fines, and sales (of uncollected, impounded equipment), however, the Council does not budget for income from penalties as it could be seen to create a perverse incentive.
- 6.13. Permitted activity monitoring is funded from the rates base. Generally the public and future residents are the beneficiaries of this type of monitoring.
- 6.14. General complaint monitoring is also carried out, however, this covers a number of different activity areas, some of which are not covered in this Activity Management Plan.

Biosecurity

- 6.15. The public generally benefits from Council undertaking pest management responsibilities with attendant reduction in risks to primary production, biodiversity, and the environment. Nelson City Council pays Tasman District Council for work done in accordance with the Regional Pest Management Strategy. Public 100%, Private 0% split.

Environmental Education and Advocacy

- 6.16. Council considers that the community generally benefits from having in place a system for promoting an awareness of environmental issues and responsible behaviour towards the environment and appreciation of sustainable management objectives. Some non-rate funding for this activity could come from sponsorship, grants, and land owner contributions. Currently the ratio is a Public 100%, Private 0% split.

Schedule of Fees and Charges

- 6.17. The fees and charges are reviewed annually and increased at least by the CPI. Environmental monitoring activities are funded in part by annual charges set under section 36(1)(c) of the Resource Management Act. Setting of fees is subject to separate process.

7. Significant Negative Effects

- 7.1. There are no significant effects from the activity, other than the costs of providing the services, however, particular actions and decisions may result in adverse media coverage that may be regarded as being representative of a negative effect. In such cases, Council will manage this prospect by properly assessing options and implications and clearly justifying decisions.

8. Significant Forecasting Assumptions and Uncertainties

- 8.1. The most significant assumptions and uncertainties that underlie the approach that has been outlined herein are:

- A reasonable degree of reliability can be placed on the population and other growth projections that have been used as forecast assumptions for the priorities in the Environmental Management activity. However, these remain projections, and need to be carefully tracked to ensure that they remain a reliable indicator of likely future trends.
- Government regulation and other regulatory changes are capable of changing the scope, nature and processes associated with this activity. However, no allowance has been made for changes in legislation.
- Future budgets are based on a similar level of effort being required to respond per issue to the demands of this activity, but with growth and increasing contests over resource use, the outlook is for a slow level of increase in aggregate effort over the ten year period.
- The importance of public education, its message, delivery and review should never be under estimated.

9. Plan review

- 9.1. This AMP is a living document that is relevant and integral to daily management of the activity. To ensure the plan remains useful and relevant, an on-going process of AMP monitoring and review will be undertaken, including a comprehensive review at intervals of not less than three years, and each review will be completed to coincide with the next review of the Long Term Plan.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. The Council will undertake its Environmental Management activities in accordance with its legal obligations and in a manner that ensures community outcomes are achieved.

Appendix 1 Financial projections 2015 - 2025

	2015/16	2016/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Planning										
Nelson Plan	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	300,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Air Plan	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000					
Strategy & Policy	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Resource Consent processing	1,810,172	1,790,172	1,790,172	1,790,172	1,790,172	1,790,172	1,790,172	1,790,172	1,790,172	1,790,172
Resource Consent Monitoring *	208,000	208,000	208,000	208,000	208,000	208,000	208,000	208,000	208,000	208,000
Permitted activity monitoring *	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000

*These figures are included in the overall Resource Consent processing figure

Monitoring Programme	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Air monitoring	100,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	170,000	100,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	100,000
Coastal monitoring	13,000	38,000	13,000	38,000	13,000	38,000	13,000	38,000	13,000	38,000
Tasman Bay Science Challenge	20,000	20,000	20,000							
Water monitoring	160,000	155,000	160,000	155,000	173,283	155,000	160,000	155,000	160,000	168,283
Research	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Other (LAWA website, SOE reporting, iwi indicator monitoring)	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500
MP TOTAL	333,500	323,500	303,500	303,500	396,783	333,500	283,500	303,500	283,500	346,783
Non-reg Programme	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Air quality	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Home insulation	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Nature	505,000	555,000	555,000	605,000	655,000	655,000	655,000	650,000	650,000	650,000
Project Maitai/Mahitahi	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Future Catchment-based projects	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Biosecurity	186,000	196,000	186,000	186,000	186,000	196,000	186,000	186,000	186,000	196,000
Environmental Education	96,520	96,520	96,520	96,520	96,520	96,520	96,520	96,520	96,520	96,520
Nelson 2060 implementation	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Heritage incentives	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000
NRP TOTAL	1,523,520	1,583,520	1,573,520	1,223,520	1,273,520	1,283,520	1,273,520	1,268,520	1,268,520	1,278,520