

Draft Nelson Plan - Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity provisions

What has changed?

The following is a short summary comparing the approach to the Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity provisions in the current Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and the Draft Nelson Plan (note: this applies to terrestrial biodiversity only; for coastal biodiversity see the Coastal comparison table).

Activity	NRMP	Nelson Plan
Chapter changes		
Topics and Zones	A single Conservation zone.	Indigenous biodiversity is provided for in several chapters. Primarily these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2 – Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity • Part 3 - Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity • Part 3 – Earthworks (with regards to vegetation clearance) • Part 4 – Natural Open Space Zone (Conservation Precinct)
Spatial changes		
Zones and areas	A single Conservation zone provides for most public reserves, but not <i>all</i> . Conservation Overlay only partially covers areas of significant conservation value on private land.	Retains and extends NRMP Conservation zone to include all relevant public reserves within the Conservation precinct. Identifies and maps Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) on private land.
Objectives and Policies		
Predominant activity	Identifies and provides for maintenance and enhancement of “natural values”.	Seeks to identify, protect, restore and enhance significant biodiversity values and to safeguard them from pests and increase their resilience to climate change.

		<p>Prioritises a “no net loss” of significant natural areas and enhancement of biodiversity corridors.</p> <p>Provides for activities that are compatible with protecting, maintaining, restoring and enhancing indigenous biodiversity.</p>
Rules		
Terminology	Reference to “indigenous forest” (area of naturally occurring woody indigenous vegetation) but no reference to significance.	Distinction is made between “indigenous” and “exotic” vegetation, and identification of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs).
Activities provided for	Rules are generally restraining, i.e. most activities in Conservation Overlay and Conservation Zone are discretionary.	Generally allows for activities that are compatible with protecting, maintaining, restoring and enhancing indigenous biodiversity.
	<p>Vegetation clearance is generally provided for, but only limited clearance of “indigenous forest” permitted (otherwise discretionary).</p> <p>In Conservation Overlay and Conservation Zone: clearance of all “indigenous forest” is discretionary.</p>	<p>Vegetation clearance is generally permitted (but restricted discretionary within 20m of CMA or river).</p> <p>In Conservation precinct and SNA overlay: clearance of exotic vegetation permitted, and small scale clearance of indigenous vegetation permitted along existing tracks or within 3m of existing buildings, otherwise discretionary.</p>
	No specific rules re: vegetation planting	Within SNA overlay, planting of indigenous vegetation permitted and planting of exotic vegetation non-complying.

This comparison table is for information only to assist the Draft Nelson Plan development process. The activities and status of rules may change. Refer to the Nelson City Council website for updates on progress or status of the Nelson Plan.