

## Part 1 – Introduction and general provisions

### Introduction

#### Purpose

Nelson City Council is a unitary authority, having the responsibilities of both a territorial authority and a regional council. The purpose of the Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan (referred to as the 'Nelson Plan') is to enable the Nelson City Council to:

1. carry out its functions as set out in section 30 and section 31 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (referred to as the RMA); and
2. achieve the purpose of the RMA to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The Nelson Plan is a combined plan encompassing the provisions of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS), Regional Coastal Plan (RCP), Regional Plan (RP) and District Plan (DP). It addresses the integrated management of the natural and physical resources of Whakatū Nelson, including land, soil and vegetation, freshwater bodies (groundwater and surface water and the beds of lakes and rivers), the Coastal marine area, the built environment, and air.

Beyond its statutory purpose, it is also anticipated that the Nelson Plan will play a role in achieving the Nelson City Council's *Vision for Whakatū Nelson*.

#### **Vision for Whakatū Nelson**

The following statement sets out the Nelson City Council vision or expectations for Whakatū Nelson resulting from implementation of the Nelson Plan. The vision and its strategic outcomes find further expression in the resource management issues, objectives and policies of the Nelson Plan.

##### **The Vision for Nelson is:**

*Nelson is a Smart Little City (Whakatū Tōrire): Nelson is a vibrant place where we are deeply connected and committed to our natural, social and cultural environment. Clever business and innovation helps us thrive. We enjoy living fulfilled lives in smart sustainable communities.*

##### **The Strategic Outcomes of the Vision**

To achieve this vision the Nelson Plan will need to assist in delivering the following strategic outcomes across our geographical areas and environmental domains and by enabling adequate provision of our social and physical infrastructure.

*Outcome 1 – Our natural environment is kept well and strong.*

Whakatū Nelson is a beautiful place to live, where we work together and feel connected to the city, the people and the natural environment. Nelson is a place where our natural environment and health and well-being is maintained and enhanced.

*Outcome 2 - Whakatū Nelson is business-friendly and business is sensitive to the environment.*

We choose Whakatū Nelson as our home because the city offers ample opportunities to make a living. Nelson is a business friendly city where economic activity is sensitive to the environment, heritage, and people of Nelson. Businesses operate successfully now and into the future, and

the city is well known as a welcoming place for innovative and productive industries and businesses and a wide range of events. Our city backdrop and coastal area provide world class recreation and tourism opportunities. Nelson is celebrated as a region with a healthy natural environment richly endowed with natural places that teem with indigenous animals and plants.

*Outcome 3 – Create a vibrant, attractive, connected, and well-planned city that is engaged in climate change mitigation, adaptation, innovation and resilience.*

A diverse range of people enrich Whakatū Nelson's vibrant culture, attracted by the well-designed and affordable housing choices, the high quality education and employment options, and the stunning rivers, forests and beaches. We are well on our way to achieving a net zero carbon level by 2050. Sustainable and resilient living is easy thanks to the city's compact area and form, walking and cycling tracks, key transport infrastructure and services, and access to renewable energy. Whakatū Nelson is well-planned, and carefully manages urban intensification and a clear urban and rural boundary. Nelson's form has been strongly influenced by how the community adapts to the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, increased frequency and severity of storm events, the effects on terrestrial and marine biodiversity from increased temperatures and acidification and overheating of our oceans.

*Outcome 4 – Our City Centre is attractive to businesses, residents and visitors, with an exceptional mix of events, civic facilities and retail.*

Nelson's City Centre is valued for its distinctive character and is the premier commercial centre in the top of the South Island - a hub for tourism, entertainment and events. The city's unique heritage buildings, including its Edwardian and Victorian character, are celebrated and complemented with modern architecture that houses a mix of commercial and residential activities. The Suter Gallery, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts, Theatre Royal, and the Museum are among some of the key civic facilities in the City Centre. Our other larger centres (Tahunanui and Stoke) are employment and development-friendly environments with well-used, high quality public spaces.

*Outcome 5 – Residential areas provide for a broad range of affordable housing types.*

In our residential areas, people live in sustainable and connected neighbourhoods and enjoy privacy, outlook, warmth and sunshine. Nelson's housing stock is varied and provides for a range of affordable, healthy, sustainable, and energy efficient housing. The adaptive re-use of the existing building stock is encouraged. Smaller houses, townhouses and apartments located in or near the City Centre, Tahunanui and Stoke centres offer exciting new lifestyle choices alongside our traditional, larger family homes. This mix of contemporary and historic buildings, as well as Nelson's natural setting between the hills and the sea, creates a unique look and feel.

*Outcome 6 – Industrial areas provide for appropriate local employment and economic development.*

Industrial areas in Vanguard Street, the Port, Tahunanui and Saxton are used efficiently so that the activities in these areas continue to develop to provide local employment and economic development. A coordinated and regional approach with Tasman District ensures industry location and growth is well-matched to the characteristics and needs of the wider Nelson Tasman region.

*Outcome 7 – Essential infrastructure future proofs our city.*

Nelson City relies on good quality, sustainable, affordable and resilient infrastructure network that supports a growing population and strong regional economy. Whakatū Nelson's core infrastructure services, including our transport network, water services, port, airport, polytechnic and hospital, are able to meet the community's needs. A strategic approach to building new infrastructure supports urban growth and development in the right places, at the right time, to ensure maximum efficiency.

We have access to reliable and sustainable energy supplies, energy efficient housing, and identify cost effective ways to increase our use of renewable resources.

*Outcome 8 – We will adapt to our natural hazard risks.*

In addition to advancing our understanding of, and responses to, a range of hazards such as river flooding, coastal erosion and inundation, earthquakes and landslides, we have invested in keeping abreast of research and forecasting the risks associated with climate change. We are careful about how and where we build and how we preserve our environment to manage these risks.

*Outcome 9 – Natural and heritage values are protected and celebrated.*

We value, protect and celebrate our distinctive and significant heritage, landscape, and biodiversity values, recognising how areas such as:

- the city backdrop;
- Brook Waimarama Sanctuary;
- our coastal edge from Raetihi/ Cape Soucis to Te Taero-a-Kereopa/ Boulder Bank, Horoirangi Marine Reserve, Delaware Bay; and
- the Bryant Range including the Mineral Belt and Maungatapu/ Mocketapu

contribute to our identity and sense of belonging. We are committed to biodiversity restoration, regeneration and enhancement and acknowledge the positive impacts this also creates on reducing our carbon footprint.

*Outcome 10 – Rural values are maintained and enhanced.*

Our rural areas are valued for primary production and associated employment and lifestyle opportunities. They also play an important role in the integrated management of marine, land, and community resources. The rural, open space, and coastal environments will continue to be a large part of Whakatū Nelson's identity. They are further valued for their cultural heritage, recreation opportunities, indigenous biodiversity and stunning landscapes. These values continue to be maintained and enhanced while supporting sustainable transition to higher value production, improved biodiversity outcomes, and reducing our carbon footprint.

*Outcome 11 – Coastal and marine areas are healthy and productive.*

Coastal waters wrap around our built and natural edges. Our large coastal environment continues to provide a range of recreation and economic opportunities for Whakatū Nelson including fishing and aquaculture within a clean, healthy and resilient coastal ecosystem.

*Outcome 12 – Whakatū Nelson has clean and accessible water.*

Our streams and rivers provide a key natural and physical link from the mountains to the sea. The water in our rivers and streams is healthy and sustainably managed and will be available for use by future generations. Our aquatic habitats are able to sustain in-stream native fauna, and our rivers and their margins are scenic, attractive and accessible for swimming, fishing and playing in.

*Outcome 13 – Whakatū Nelson has clean air.*

Our air quality is protected in a way that recognises our community's human health needs and allows us to stay warm and healthy. Whakatū Nelson residents will continue to be proud of the efforts we have made to clear the air.

The vision for Whakatū Nelson should be read in conjunction with the vision and strategic outcomes held by the Whakatū Nelson tangata whenua as set out in RMIA – Resource management issues of significance to iwi authorities.