

Part 2 – Resource management overview

SRMR – Significant resource management issues for the region

NFL – Natural features and landscapes

Issues

SRMR-NFL-I1 Outstanding natural features and landscapes [RPS]

Whakatū Nelson features a number of outstanding natural features and landscapes, outside the Coastal environment, which are highly valued by the community and are vulnerable to adverse effects caused by inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

Some of Whakatū Nelson’s natural features and landscapes are eminent and remarkable in local terms, and are highly valued by residents and visitors to the region. Technical evaluation and consultation with the community indicates that the majority of outstanding natural features and landscapes are located in the Coastal environment (refer to SRMR – CE – Coastal environment). Outside the Coastal environment, the impressive mountain landscape represented by the Bryant Range and Mineral Belt is considered to be outstanding.

The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is a matter of national importance. The outstanding Bryant Range and Mineral Belt, the values of which are described in more detail in APP37 – Outstanding natural features and landscapes, is generally not subject to significant development pressure, and to some extent is protected naturally by its remoteness and inaccessibility. It is also held in public ownership and as such is subject to existing protection mechanisms under other legislation.

Nevertheless, there is some risk that its natural qualities could be compromised by inappropriate forms of use or development, such as mineral extraction, installation of network utilities, or earthworks. While the likelihood of such development in such areas may not be high, the consequences could be significant.

SRMR-NFL-I2 Significant landscapes [RPS]

Whakatū Nelson significant landscapes, outside the Coastal environment, are highly valued by the community and are vulnerable to adverse effects caused by inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

The significant landscapes outside the Coastal environment are identified in APP36 – City backdrop and APP38 – Special landscape values associated with the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley, and include the predominantly undeveloped skylines and hill slopes that form the immediate backdrop to Nelson City, and the landscape of the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley, respectively.

Skylines form the boundary between sky and land. What are seen as skylines depend on the viewpoints from which they are viewed. They typically include ridgeline landforms and can include rolling ridge faces from closer distances, as well as spurs located below main ridges. Hill slopes may include spurs and ridgelines as they rise toward the skyline when viewed from particular locations.

Not all hill slopes and skylines that form the backdrop to Nelson City are valued in the same way. The Port Hills Ridge and some slopes and skylines close to Enner Glynn, Stoke, Brooklands, Dodson Valley, Marybank and Todds Valley north now form part of the Nelson City's urban fabric or have further development potential. As their names attest, such streets as Clairmont Heights, Somerset Terrace, Panorama Drive, Highview Drive, Cape View, Seawatch Way, Bayview Road, Springlea Heights, Sunnybank Rise and Skylark Rise are valued most for the views they command.

However, other largely undeveloped slopes and skylines that form the backdrop to Nelson City make an important contribution to its setting. They are those slopes and skylines visible from Whakatū Nelson's town centre, the main arterial routes of SH6 and Waimea Road, and Whakatū Nelson's coastal edge. They include the Barnicoat foothills above the Ngawhatu and Marsden Valleys, the Grampians, Sharland Hill, the Sugarloaf, Fringed Hill, Botanical Hill northwards through the Malvern Hills, and Kaka Hill.

While these slopes and skylines may not be 'outstanding', they are valued by the community for their visual and aesthetic amenity. They retain this value whether they are clothed in pasture, scrub, or exotic or indigenous forest. Dynamic, albeit temporary, change may be a feature of such areas, particularly where the rotation cycle associated with plantation forestry is concerned. The community's acceptance of the visual impacts associated with such change can be stretched in the period immediately following harvesting.

Overall, what sets these areas apart are their relatively undeveloped, open qualities. To some extent this reflects their limited development potential or their being held in public ownership. However, in some cases those special qualities could be compromised by insensitive development of a more permanent nature, for instance, the colour or reflectivity of buildings located on slopes, or by the siting of buildings or utilities on the skyline.

In addition, the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley holds special cultural and landscape values for Whakatū Nelson's community including tāngata whenua even though its lower portions are modified by urban development.

There are also significant features within the Coastal environment (the Nelson Haven and Tahunanui Beach). These are addressed in SRMR – CE.

SRMR-NFL-13 Pest plants and animal incursions [RPS]

Whakatū Nelson's valued natural features and landscapes are susceptible to damage by the incursion of pest plants and animals.

The natural qualities of Whakatū Nelson's outstanding natural features and landscapes, and significant features and landscapes, may be compromised incrementally over time by the spread of pest weeds, including wilding pine and gorse, and by grazing by feral animals such as goats and possums.

Objectives

SRMR-NFL-O1 Outstanding natural features and landscapes [RPS]

Outstanding natural features and landscapes outside the Coastal environment are protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

SRMR-NFL-O2 Significant landscape character areas [RPS]

Significant landscape character areas outside the Coastal environment are maintained.

SRMR-NFL-O3 Pest plants and animal incursions [RPS]

Whakatū Nelson's natural features and landscapes outside the Coastal environment are safeguarded, where feasible, from pest plants and animal incursions.

Policies

SRMR-NFL-P1 Assessment of outstanding natural features and landscapes [RPS]

Identify and assess outstanding natural features and landscapes in Whakatū Nelson by evaluation of the following characteristics, attributes and values:

1. Biophysical values:
 - a. Landform component: the extent to which topography and/or geology displays particular representativeness or rarity within Whakatū Nelson.
 - b. Land cover component: the extent to which native vegetation communities, wildlife or ecosystems display particular representativeness or rarity in Whakatū Nelson.
2. Sensory and aesthetic values:
 - a. Legibility or expressiveness: how obviously the natural feature or landscape demonstrates its formative processes.
 - b. Naturalness: the perception of the predominance of nature in the landscape.
 - c. Vividness: how striking the natural feature or landscape is, including its potential to be symbolic of an area due to recognisable scenic associations and memorable qualities.
 - d. Coherence: the extent to which patterns of land cover and land use are in harmony with the underlying landform of the area and the presence or absence of significant discordant elements.
 - e. Transient values: whether wildlife or other values are present at certain times of the day or year.
3. Associative values:
 - a. Recognised values: whether the values are shared and recognised by the local and wider community for its contribution to local identity.
 - b. Tāngata whenua values: whether there are cultural and spiritual values held by tāngata whenua.

- c. Historic and heritage associations: whether historic events have occurred in or around the natural feature or landscape and the extent to which this heritage influences and adds to the values held by the community.

Explanation

Technical evaluation and consultation has identified current outstanding natural features and landscapes. This policy provides a basis for consistent technical evaluation of the merits of additional natural features and landscapes that may be identified as outstanding. The implementation of SRMR-NFL-P2, is assisted by SRMR-NFL-P1 which provides the basis for consistent evaluation of the potential effects of subdivision, use and development on the characteristics and values of outstanding natural features and landscapes.

SRMR-NFL-P2 Adverse effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes [RPS]

Discourage activities and subdivision that could have an adverse effect on the characteristics, attributes and values of outstanding natural features and landscapes outside the Coastal environment, as described in APP37 – Outstanding natural features and landscapes.

Explanation

APP37 – Outstanding natural features and landscapes describes the outstanding Bryant Range and Mineral Belt landscape which have been identified by the community and taking into consideration SRMR-NFL-P1. This is directed at avoiding adverse effects that would undermine the characteristics and values of these landscapes, but the policy does not seek to avoid all subdivision, use and development within this landscape. Some forms of subdivision, use and development may be appropriate. However, subdivision, use and development that has irreversible adverse effects on the characteristics, attributes and values as listed in SRMR-NFL-P1 would be inappropriate.

SRMR-NFL-P3 Significant landscape character areas [RPS]

Maintain the predominantly undeveloped character of:

1. the skylines and hill slopes that form the backdrop to the urban area of Nelson City as viewed from the town centre, State Highway 6, Waimea Road and the coastline; and
2. the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley.

Explanation

The hill slopes and skylines that form the backdrop to Nelson City have been identified as hosting special landscape values prominently visible from the town centre, State Highway 6, Waimea Road and the coastline. The largely undeveloped Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley is similarly valued by the community.

These landscape features are valued for their open and largely undeveloped character, naturalness, attractive scenic qualities and for their cultural and recreational associations. Maintaining these special values is important to maintaining Whakatū Nelson’s identity and the quality of Nelson City’s urban setting.

SRMR-NFL-P4 Effects on significant landscape character areas [RPS]

Discourage significant adverse visual effects of subdivision and development on the predominantly undeveloped significant landscape character areas identified in APP36 – City backdrop and APP38 – Special landscape values associated with the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley.

Explanation

Earthworks and the construction or placement of structures could potentially significantly conflict with the special landscape values of identified skylines and hill slopes and the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley. These activities are enabled by land subdivision so particular attention should be given to the future impact of the siting of buildings when considering applications for land subdivision. Regulatory intervention is considered necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate significant adverse visual effects of these activities, including adverse cumulative effects. Earthworks and buildings can be successfully mitigated, for example through careful siting in relation to skylines, design, materials used and by landscape planting.

SRMR-NFL-P5 Encouraging the removal of pests and weeds [RPS]

Encourage the removal of weeds and pests in the areas identified in SRMR-NFL-P1 and SRMR-NFL-P3 by supporting efforts by public agencies and private landowners to control biosecurity and biodiversity risks.

Explanation

Nelson City Council has a long history of supporting the rehabilitation and restoration of natural habitats and landscapes, including through management of Council-owned land, and through the provision of resources and funding, and other support of partnerships such as the Biodiversity Forum and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance, and the realisation of the Nelson Biodiversity Strategy. This policy acknowledges and continues this commitment. Pest and weed control are important forms of environmental restoration and have benefits beyond the biophysical. For example, they can address the impacts of wilding pines and goat grazing on valued natural features and landscapes, and contribute to restoring their natural character and visual values.

Nelson City Council can actively support pest control efforts by assisting public and private landowners with advice, funding and pest eradication equipment. These opportunities are explored in more detail in SRMR – ECO.

Methods

Regulatory methods	Who	Links to policy
The Nelson Plan		
SRMR-NFL-M1 [RPS]	Council	SRMR-NFL-P1 SRMR-NFL-P2

Identify and map outstanding natural features and landscapes, and include a framework of objectives, policies and rules to manage adverse effects on these landscapes and features.		
SRMR-NFL-M2 [RPS] Identify, as an overlay, the valued significant landscape character areas, and include a framework of objectives and policies to manage effects on the special values of these areas.	Council	SRMR-NFL-P3 SRMR-NFL-P4
Other legislation, statutory policies, standards and plans		
SRMR-NFL-M3 [RPS] Ensure Parks and Reserve Management Plans achieve the landscape and natural character outcomes sought for outstanding natural features and landscapes, and identified significant landscape character areas, located on public land.	Council	SRMR-NFL-P1 SRMR-NFL-P2 SRMR-NFL-P3 SRMR-NFL-P4

Non-regulatory methods	Who	Links to policy
Non-statutory plans and strategies		
SRMR-NFL-M4 [RPS] Take account of the important landscape values identified in the Nelson plan in decisions over future land use within the Nelson City Council's forestry holdings.	Council	SRMR-NFL-P1 SRMR-NFL-P2 SRMR-NFL-P3 SRMR-NFL-P4
Monitoring and information gathering		
SRMR-NFL-M5 [RPS] Monitor land management practices and the impact of land subdivision and development within the identified outstanding natural features and landscapes, and within identified significant landscape character areas.	Council	SRMR-NFL-P1 SRMR-NFL-P2 SRMR-NFL-P3 SRMR-NFL-P4
Advocacy and education		
SRMR-NFL-M6 [RPS] Provide advice to prospective consent applicants about design and mitigation of potential adverse effects of development proposals on identified natural features and landscapes, and significant landscape character areas.	Council	SRMR-NFL-P1 SRMR-NFL-P2 SRMR-NFL-P3 SRMR-NFL-P4
Funding and assistance		

<p>SRMR-NFL-M7 [RPS]</p> <p>Consider options for protection of land that contributes to the important visual values of the City’s skyline and hill slope setting and which offers potential for enhancement, restoration and low-impact recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>SRMR-NFL-P1 SRMR-NFL-P2 SRMR-NFL-P3 SRMR-NFL-P4 SRMR-NFL-P5</p>
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Principal reasons

SRMR-NFL-PR1 [RPS]

The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is a matter of national importance. Protection of outstanding and valued natural features and landscapes is also central to the quality of Whakatū Nelson’s natural environment and the region’s distinctive identity as a visitor destination. The importance of these landscape outcomes warrants careful management, including through the regulation of activities that have the potential to create adverse effects on their distinctive natural characteristics and landscape values. The distinctive and predominantly undeveloped skyline and hill slopes that form the backdrop to Nelson City and the predominantly undeveloped Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley are sufficiently important to the community to warrant careful management of activities there, including through regulatory control of land subdivision, earthworks and structures.

Anticipated environmental results

Relevant policies	Anticipated environmental result
<p>SRMR-NFL-P1 [RPS]</p> <p>Identify and assess outstanding natural features and landscapes in Whakatū Nelson by evaluation of the following characteristics, attributes and values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biophysical values: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Landform component: the extent to which topography and/or geology displays particular representativeness or rarity within Whakatū Nelson. b. Land cover component: the extent to which native vegetation communities, wildlife or ecosystems display particular representativeness or rarity in Whakatū Nelson. 	<p>SRMR-NFL-AER1 [RPS]</p> <p>The outstanding natural features and landscapes of Whakatū Nelson, located outside the Coastal environment, retain the characteristics and values that distinguish them as outstanding.</p>

<p>2. Sensory and aesthetic values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legibility or expressiveness: how obviously the natural feature or landscape demonstrates its formative processes. b. Naturalness: the perception of the predominance of nature in the landscape. c. Vividness: how striking the natural feature or landscape is, including its potential to be symbolic of an area due to recognisable scenic associations and memorable qualities. d. Coherence: the extent to which patterns of land cover and land use are in harmony with the underlying landform of the area and the presence or absence of significant discordant elements. e. Transient values: whether wildlife or other values are present at certain times of the day or year. <p>3. Associative values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognised values: whether the values are shared and recognised by the local and wider community for its contribution to local identity. b. Tāngata whenua values: whether there are cultural and spiritual values held by tāngata whenua. c. Historic and heritage associations: whether historic events have occurred in or around the natural feature or landscape and the extent to which this heritage influences and adds to the values held by the community. 	
<p>SRMR-NFL-P2 [RPS]</p> <p>Discourage activities and subdivision that could have an adverse effect on the characteristics, attributes and values of outstanding natural features and landscapes outside the Coastal environment, as described in APP37 – Outstanding natural features and landscapes.</p>	<p>SRMR-NFL-AER2 [RPS]</p> <p>The outstanding natural features and landscapes of Whakatū Nelson, located outside the Coastal environment, retain the characteristics and values that distinguish them as outstanding.</p>

<p>SRMR-NFL-P3 [RPS]</p> <p>Maintain the predominantly undeveloped character of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the skylines and hill slopes that form the backdrop to the urban area of Nelson City as viewed from the town centre, State Highway 6, Waimea Road and the coastline; and 2. the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley. 	<p>SRMR-NFL-AER3 [RPS]</p> <p>The predominantly open landscape character of the identified skylines and hill slopes and the distinctive landscape character of the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley are maintained.</p>
<p>SRMR-NFL-P4 [RPS]</p> <p>Discourage significant adverse visual effects of subdivision and development on the predominantly undeveloped significant landscape character areas identified in APP36 – City backdrop and APP38 – Special landscape values associated with the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley.</p>	<p>SRMR-NFL-AER4 [RPS]</p> <p>The predominantly open landscape character of the identified skylines and hill slopes and the distinctive landscape character of the Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley are maintained.</p>
<p>SRMR-NFL-P5 [RPS]</p> <p>Encourage the removal of weeds and pests in the areas identified in SRMR-NFL-P1 and SRMR-NFL-P3 by supporting efforts by public agencies and private landowners to control biosecurity and biodiversity risks.</p>	<p>SRMR-NFL-AER5 [RPS]</p> <p>The outstanding natural features and landscapes of Whakatū Nelson are not compromised, where feasible, by the incursion of pest plants or damage by pest animals.</p>