

Part 6

NCFLC – Natural character, features and landscapes in the coastal environment

APP18 – Special landscape values associated with the Nelson Haven

Special landscape values associated with the Nelson Haven

Nelson Haven extends to the north-east of Nelson City and forms a contained estuary between the Boulder Bank and QEII Drive. It forms a recognised natural feature contained within the larger Nelson Haven and the Boulder Bank character area.

Biophysical – high

1. The active estuary with shifting channels is highly dynamic and the influence of the tide is particularly important for the ecosystem.
2. The largest colony of eelgrass beds in Tasman Bay.
3. Nelson Haven is considered of national importance as a major feeding area and roost for migratory waders and nationally threatened bird species.

Sensory – high

1. Below MHWS, the estuary retains a strong open natural context with exposed mudflats and shifting channels of water.
2. Sandflats retain formative coastal processes which more significant modification along the coastal edges associated with Wakapuaka Flats, QEII Drive and Nelson Port.
3. Limited modification is apparent in the form of posts, poles and moored boats seen in the context of a strong coastal shipping character in Nelson Port.
4. The constant change and movement on the coast - with tides, weather and lighting conditions - contributes a great deal of visual variety to the city's landscape context.
5. Various seabirds and marine mammals seen in this area contribute to high transient values.

Associative – very high

1. Of very high local importance to the local community.
2. Important for a variety of recreational activities, such as windsurfing, kite surfing, paddle boarding, rowing and sailing.
3. Important food source and transport connections for Māori.
4. Strong historic associations with Port Nelson and artefacts associated with coastal shipping including Nelson's lighthouse.

Evaluation

Nelson Haven is considered to form a Significant feature.