

Draft Nelson Plan – Frequently asked questions

Coastal environment

What and where is Whakatū Nelson’s coastal environment?

The coastal environment is made up of the Coastal marine area (mean high water springs seaward for 12 nautical miles and adjoining Marlborough and Tasman District boundaries) and a landward edge as mapped in the Draft Nelson Plan. The landward edge is that part of the land in which the coast is a significant part or element. It was defined by technical experts from Boffa Miskell using a range of criteria as set out in Policy 1 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, including topography, ecology, natural processes and the level of modification of an area. The technical report is available on the Council’s website. See:

<http://www.nelson.govt.nz/assets/Environment/Downloads/Nelson-Plan/Nelson-Coastal-Study-Natural-Character-Coastal-Environment-Boffa-Miskell-updated-June-2015-opt.pdf>

What drives the coastal provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan?

The Draft Nelson Plan proposes to give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement which sets out national management objectives and policies and provides direction for how the Draft Plan deals with different coastal issues. For example, the Draft Plan identifies outstanding natural character and landscape areas and significant areas of biodiversity, that the Coastal Policy Statement requires to be managed in a way that avoids adverse effects on the values within them.

Council is also continuing to work with Tangata Whenua to ensure their values and views are recognised and managed through the Coastal provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan.

How were marine ecological values identified?

APP13 of the Draft Nelson Plan describes the marine biodiversity values, based on a technical study undertaken by the Cawthron Institute (available on the Council’s website [nelson.govt.nz](http://www.nelson.govt.nz)). The Draft Plan proposes that consideration of marine biodiversity values are matters of control or discretion to be considered in any resource consent application for a variety of activities that might impact on them.

Would the Draft Nelson Plan restrict my ability to build on land next to the coast?

The Draft Nelson Plan identifies an esplanade strip of 20m from mean high water springs along the coastline (with the exception of the Port). The Draft Nelson Plan would encourage activities that enhance the ecological, natural character and public access values of coastal margins and could restrict activities that adversely affect these values.

An additional important consideration for coastal margins would be the risk of coastal erosion and coastal flooding. Refer to the discussion in the following question.

How would the Draft Nelson Plan manage the potential increase in erosion and inundation from the sea?

The Resource Management Act requires Councils to consider the effects of climate change. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement also provides guidance on managing coastal hazards.

Council commenced discussion with the community in early 2019 through a series of public drop in sessions, hui at Whakatu Marae, feedback survey, online hub and one-on-one meetings. The result of that engagement has been that Council has a significantly greater understanding of what people already know and have experienced with respect to coastal hazards, and people's general appreciation of living with coastal natural hazard risks.

Council has now undertaken preliminary 'bathtub' modelling of coastal erosion and coastal inundation and the results of that modelling will be made available in early 2021. Council is also undertaking more detailed modelling using a 'hydrodynamic' model of future coastal flooding to capture the specific climatic and geographic situation for Nelson. These maps will allow us to have further conversations about the potential options to manage this natural hazard and will be consulted on with the community in early 2021. Following that, provisions will be developed and included in a later version of the Draft Nelson Plan.

In the Natural Hazards chapter of the Draft Nelson Plan, draft objectives have been developed from community responses to earlier discussions, that set out a preliminary approach to ensuring development in these areas does not result in an increase in significant risk to people and property.

In so doing, the Draft Nelson Plan recognises the need to achieve a balance between enabling growth and development to meet people's needs and making sure that future communities are not put at risk from potential hazards. Policies also recognise the importance of public awareness of risk, so that people can make informed decisions about how to develop into the future.

The provisions and mapping may change as we continue to work on the Nelson Plan with our community.

I live on my boat moored in the Marina. Will I still be able to do this under the Draft Nelson Plan?

The provisions of the Draft Nelson Plan would not change your ability to moor in the Marina if you have an existing mooring site.

Why does the Draft Nelson Plan set out mooring management areas?

There are limited areas available in Nelson for future moorings in the Coastal marine area.

The establishment of mooring management areas would provide certainty to existing mooring holders while discouraging the spread of moorings into other areas which may be less suitable due to different values and use interests. Future demand may have to be managed by landward storage options.

What does the Draft Nelson Plan propose about coastal water quality?

Coastal water quality would be managed by setting water quality standards in the Draft Nelson Plan and by identifying areas where water-contact recreation activities take place.

These are based on the previous standards but have been updated based on new technical information.

Key activities such as sewage discharges and dredge dumping areas would be managed through consent conditions. Adverse effects arising from these activities would need to be carefully

managed to ensure the overall quality and functioning of coastal ecosystems is maintained or enhanced.

Why does the Draft Nelson Plan enable aquaculture? Does this mean there will be a proliferation of mussel farms around Nelson's coastline?

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement requires Council to enable aquaculture in suitable places. There is also a central government strategy that supports this. Therefore Council has provided guidance on what types of aquaculture could develop and where they could locate. Anyone seeking to undertake aquaculture (other than for research purposes) would need to apply for a resource consent.

Links to the Draft Nelson Plan

This 'frequently asked questions' sheet addresses a few of the key provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan. It should not be used as a definitive representation of content. To view actual Draft Nelson Plan content, please go to shape.nelson.govt.nz.