

Draft Nelson Plan – Frequently asked questions

Energy, infrastructure and transport

How does the Draft Nelson Plan manage energy, infrastructure and transport?

Nelson City Council provides many services to the community, including water supply, wastewater management and local roads. Other agencies provide for services such as electricity, telecommunications and state highways. Many laws relate to how these are managed and supplied to the community.

The Draft Nelson Plan deals only with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 where energy, infrastructure and transport are concerned. It sets out objectives, policies and rules around all services whether the Council is directly responsible for providing them or not. These aim to ensure:

- That energy, infrastructure and transport assist in the wellbeing, health and safety of people and communities
- The sustainable management of resources
- The avoidance, remediation or mitigation of the adverse effects of the design, location, construction, operation and maintenance of those services.

The funding of local services is managed through other Council processes, such as the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes. Council does not provide for electricity, telecommunications or state highways, but manages the effects of them.

What does the Draft Nelson Plan say about transport and traffic congestion?

The Draft Nelson Plan identifies growth and development effects on traffic as an issue. Council policies aim to address this using a combination of different responses, such as:

- Identifying a road hierarchy that can help in the on-going development of an efficient road network
- Identifying new or future proposed roads for future development
- Encouraging and supporting public transport networks
- Encouraging and supporting active transport, such as walking and cycling
- Integrating policies with long-term growth planning, such as the Future Development Strategy for Urban Development (FDSUD).

Major transportation projects, such as the up-grade or building of new roads, are not managed through the Draft Nelson Plan, but through other Council processes, such as the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan. Central government initiatives for new state highway infrastructure are managed by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

What is the Council's policy on infrastructure in relation to natural hazards?

The impact of natural hazards and the potential effects of climate change on infrastructure development is a key consideration for Council.

Policy identifies that regionally significant and lifeline infrastructure is designed, located and constructed to be resilient to hazard events. Rules in the Draft Nelson Plan that manage the design, construction and operation of network infrastructure refer to Council's 'Nelson Tasman Land Development Manual 2019' (NTLDM) for specific standards that can address resilience. These include the location of the infrastructure, its design and construction materials. Both new infrastructure and infrastructure upgrades are subject to the NTLDM.

What is 'regionally significant' infrastructure and why is it important?

One of Council's main objectives is to ensure that regionally significant infrastructure is not restricted by other activities.

Regionally significant infrastructure includes reticulated community water, wastewater and stormwater systems, national electricity grid and generation, roading network, telecommunications facilities and networks, Nelson Airport, Port Nelson, the Nelson Hospital and emergency services facilities. These networks provide essential infrastructure to the Nelson and wider community, important to health, safety and wellbeing and the functioning of the Region, and 'lifeline' services during civil defence emergencies.

Can a telecommunications facility be erected next door to my home?

Some above-ground telecommunications structures are permitted and do not need a resource consent. They must comply with National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities (NESTF), as well as limits on height and size. If these standards are not met, then a resource consent would be required and the written approval of people affected by the telecommunications facility may need to be sought by the applicant as part of the consent process.

Does the Draft Nelson Plan set limits for radiofrequency fields?

The Draft Nelson Plan contains maximum standards for radiofrequency fields. The limits are based on the New Zealand Standards for maximum exposure levels and measurement of those levels. If the limits set in the rules are not met, the activity is proposed to be a non-complying activity.

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.