

# Draft Nelson Plan – Frequently asked questions

## Fault hazard

### **Why does Council identify Fault rupture hazard maps?**

Councils are required to manage natural hazard risks under a number of different pieces of legislation, including the Resource Management Act (RMA), Building Act, Local Government Act, and Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act.

It is one of the Council's roles to help people understand where ground fault rupture during an earthquake may occur. The maps will help inform decision-making under the Resource Management Act.

### **What does the Fault rupture overlay show?**

The Fault rupture overlay has been identified as areas of land above a known fault line where there may be land displacement (horizontally or vertically) as a result of an earthquake on that specific fault line. A fault rupture could damage buildings that straddle both sides of the fault line.

### **How do you map the Fault rupture area?**

Fault rupture maps are developed from technical assessments and investigations by geological engineers. The area of ground rupture occurs along known fault lines that have been identified by local engineering geologist and GNS Science.

The technical documents that have informed the maps are available here:

<http://www.nelson.govt.nz/environment/nelson-plan/research-and-technical-documents/>

### **What does the Fault rupture area mean?**

Ground rupture is different from the general shaking that could occur throughout Nelson during an earthquake, although both can cause damage. The ground rupture effect is confined to known fault lines and means that the land on either side of the fault can move in different directions, causing a different kind of damage to that of general earthquake tremors. Fault rupture movements can cause significant damage to structures built directly across a fault line.

### **Why is my property included in the Fault rupture hazard when it has never been affected like that in an earthquake?**

Councils are required to look at risk over a long time period to help inform decisions regarding future development and land uses.

The mapping shows a zone where there is a known fault and there may be a fault rupture in future. It may be an unlikely event, but is one that would have very damaging and potentially dangerous and life-threatening results if a building was constructed across the fault line.

### **Why is the Fault rupture overlay line thicker in some areas?**

We can only base the mapped fault rupture area on the information we hold. We know from reports that there is a change in geology within those bands. Due to the geology in some areas, the area where the surface will rupture will be close to the fault, while in other areas the surface

rupture will occur over a wider area. Also, in some areas, we have more detailed information and can further refine the fault rupture corridor.

**What would it mean if my property were located in a Fault rupture area?**

Proposed building work would not require resource consent in relation to this hazard if it is more than 10m outside the fault trace, or where there is already a recent geotechnical report and the building work is in line with the recommendations of the report.

If you needed resource consent, the assessment would focus on the location of the fault line (a geologist could help refine the area), the purpose of the building and the risk to people, property, infrastructure and the environment from a fault rupture.

You may still require building consent and if you are thinking of carrying out any building work on your property it is always wise to check with Council first.

**Will this information go onto my property file?**

Yes. Property files have been updated with this natural hazard information.

**What will this mean for my property?**

Until the Proposed Nelson Plan is publically notified in 2022, the Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP) rules still apply to any area that is identified in the current “Fault Hazard Overlay”. While the new mapping and provisions do not have legal effect, they can be considered as part of a resource consent application required under the NRMP.

Land Information Memorandums (LIMs) also include information about this Fault Rupture overlay, as Council is required to include the natural hazard information it holds.

Properties affected by the “Fault Hazard Overlay” in the current NRMP already have Land Information memorandum (LIM) notices on their property file. The area modelled for the Draft Nelson Plan has narrowed these corridors significantly and as a result, some of the properties with LIM notices would have those notices removed and update notices attached.

**Will this information affect my property value or insurance?**

We cannot advise you about any effect this information may have on your property values or insurance. We recommend you seek professional advice from a property valuation or insurance expert about any concerns you may have regarding these matters.

**Will I be covered by the ECQ if my property is affected by an earthquake?**

The Earthquake Commission advises that the EQC covers homes, contents and land for earthquake damage. Your insurer will cover house and contents damage for flood, storm and other damage, according to the terms of your policy.

**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](http://shape.nelson.govt.nz).