

Draft Nelson Plan – Frequently asked questions

Parking

How does the Draft Nelson Plan propose to manage car-parking?

The Draft Nelson Plan does not propose to specify a minimum number of private on-site car parks. It reflects the National Policy Statement for Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD 2020) direction that requires all Councils with larger urban environments to remove minimum parking requirements.

A developer or landowner may however choose to include on-site car parking. The Draft Nelson Plan includes parking specifications designed to ensure that where parking is provided, it functions well and would not cause any road safety issues. All of the standards relating to the number and design of car parks are contained in Appendix 23 to the Draft Nelson Plan. This appendix is referred to within rules relating to a wide range of activities that are set out in the various Zones.

The Draft Nelson Plan does not address the management of public car parks, such as time limits, parking meters or fines.

Is the Council trying to reduce the amount of parking so people have to use alternative transport options?

The Council must ensure that its Draft Nelson Plan is consistent with the NPS-UD 2020, which removes the requirement to provide for a minimum level of on-site private car-parking. The reason behind this is to enable better and more efficient use of private land for business and housing activity instead of car-parks.

Fewer on-site parking options may encourage people to look to alternative means of transportation, such as public transport, walking and cycling. The intensification of residential land that is close to amenities such as shopping areas and schools is being encouraged by the NPS-UD 2020 and facilitated by the provisions of the draft Nelson Plan. Public transportation is more economically viable in higher density communities. Car-parking options in public car-parks will continue to be provided for by the Council.

I would like to establish a restaurant in a suburban neighbourhood centre of Nelson but current rules in the NRMP don't allow me to because I cannot provide enough carparks. Would this change under the Draft Nelson Plan?

To meet the requirements of the NPS-UD 2020, the Draft Nelson Plan has no minimum car parking requirements for any activity in any zone so, yes, this would change once the Plan is operative. For now, though, the minimum car parking requirements of the operative Nelson Resource Management Plan still apply. You may choose to provide for some carparks for your patrons and the recommended levels and dimensions for design are set out in Appendix 23 of the Draft Nelson Plan.

Does the Draft Nelson Plan determine parking time limits?

The Draft Nelson Plan does not set or manage parking time limits or parking meters. A landowner can manage the use of a privately-owned car park independent of the NRMP.

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.