

Draft Nelson Plan - Frequently asked questions

The Plan making process

What is the Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan and what would it do?

At the moment Nelson's growth and development and the protection of natural and physical resources are guided by the operative Nelson Regional Policy Statement, Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and the Nelson Air Quality Plan. While these plans have been subject to some changes over time, they have not undergone a full review. The Nelson City Council has now started a full review of these plans and once finalised, the new combined plan will be called the Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan.

The Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan forms part of this review and sets out how Nelson is proposed to grow and develop, and how we propose to protect our natural environment. This draft has been released to the public for your comment and feedback.

Is it a legal requirement to produce a Resource Management Plan?

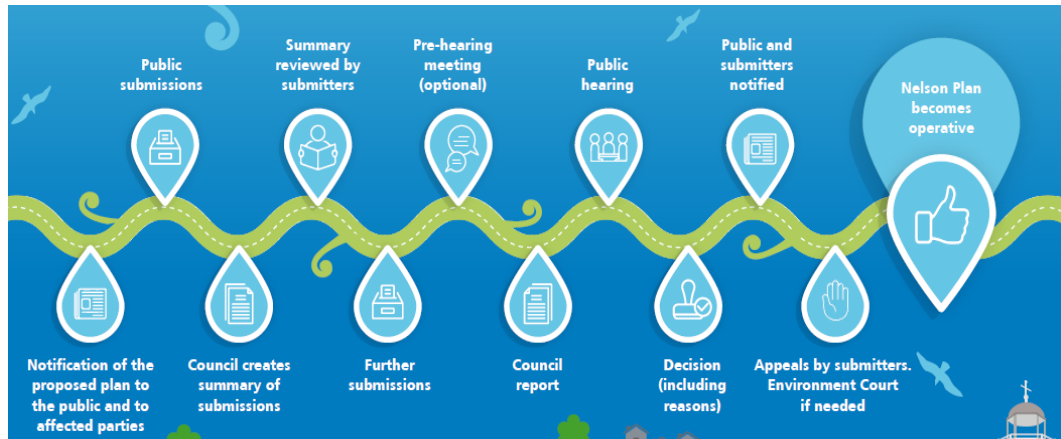
Yes. The Resource Management Act (RMA) is the main piece of legislation that sets out how we should manage our environment. It helps us care for the environment, is based on sustainable management of our resources and encourages us all to get involved in making decisions about our environment.

Nelson City Council is responsible for both regional and territorial authority functions under the Resource Management Act (referred to as a 'unitary authority'). This means that the coast, air, freshwater and land are all the responsibility of Nelson City Council.

What is the legal process to prepare the Nelson Plan?

There are multiple stages to prepare a new unitary resource management plan. The process is prescribed in the Resource Management Act, 1991. Council must follow all of the legal steps once the Plan is formally notified – see image below.

However, there is some flexibility about the process undertaken before the formal notification of the new unitary resource management plan. The main requirement is that the Council must undertake meaningful consultation during its preparation. There are some parties that we are legally required to consult with (such as tangata whenua through iwi authorities and Ministers of the Crown). The consultation undertaken with other organisations and individuals is guided by the consultation principles contained in section 82 of the Local Government Act. The Council has chosen to engage early with the community over multiple phases, to allow plenty of opportunities to suggest changes to the Draft versions of the Nelson Plan. These early phases of engagement, using draft provisions to help focus the discussion, are not a formal requirement, but are a valuable part of the consultation process.



When does the Draft Nelson Plan become a consideration to a resource consent application?

The Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan is expected to be notified in 2022. Until then the existing Nelson Regional Policy Statement, Nelson Resource Management Plan and the Nelson Air Quality Plan will guide Council decision-making when considering resource consent applications.

The Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan has no statutory status as its purpose is for consultation only. Accordingly, its content cannot be considered in any formal decision-making.

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.