

THE DRAFT WHAKAMAHERE WHAKATŪ NELSON PLAN KEY INFORMATION

The Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan combines the current resource management plans for Nelson into one combined Plan that reflects Central government requirements and direction, current best practice, and the latest research and local information. Once notified, the Nelson Plan will guide how we use our natural resources, where and how we develop land, and how we protect our environment.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What is the Climate change chapter all about?

The Climate change chapter highlights that climate change will have significant effects on Whakatū Nelson's physical and natural resources, and the ability of people and communities to use, enjoy and protect them. It is difficult to determine exactly when, where and how the various components of climate change will impact on Whakatū Nelson. However, we know that we can expect increased average temperatures, more frequent and intense heavy rainfall and storm events, and higher sea levels in the future. This is likely to increase the risks of flooding from river and sea, heat stress, drought, fire and the introduction of new pests and subtropical diseases but might also create opportunities such as growing of different crops.

How we manage the use and protection of our natural and physical resources today will impact on how we will be affected by climate change in the future. Preparing ourselves to adapt to current and future changes in climate ("adaptation") and reducing carbon emissions today ("mitigation") are important elements to ensure our economy, environment and communities are resilient in the future.

What is the Climate change chapter trying to achieve?

The Climate change chapter contains direction so that the Whakatū Nelson community is resilient and responds proactively to the likely effects of climate change.

To achieve that, the Council plays a key role in helping the community to better understand the likely expected effects of climate change. Climate science is very complex so the climate change chapter directs the Council to continue translating findings from international and national research to the local context and undertaking its own research and monitoring.

The Draft Nelson Plan promotes a risk-based approach to manage the potential effects of natural hazards that are likely to be affected by climate change as set out in chapter SRMR-HAZ-Hazards and risks. To manage the significant and ongoing change that will be required over the next 100 years and more, a combined response across communities, local government and central government will be required. The Draft Nelson Plan is just one piece of the puzzle and focuses most on managing effects of and on 'new' development, redevelopment, and effects on the environment.

While past and current greenhouse gas emissions already commit us to a certain level of adaptation in the future, we need to minimise and/or offset any further emissions to reduce the level of adaptation actions required as much as possible. The Draft Nelson Plan encourages actions that reduce and/or offset carbon emissions, such as active transport, residential intensification and renewable energy.

Where are the rules concerning Climate change?

Climate change effects will be felt across the community, and will impact on virtually everything we do. Provisions that address the effects of climate change are integrated throughout the Draft Nelson Plan. Mitigation provisions are still evolving as we consult on options and await national directions from the Ministry for the Environment on emission reduction plans.

We will also be engaging with the community shortly on preliminary coastal inundation and erosion maps that include the effects of climate change in the mapping. This builds on the community engagement we held in early 2019 around coastal hazards.

We have listed some of the possible responses and options that could be included in the Nelson Plan in the table following. We would value your feedback on these options.



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How does the draft Climate change chapter compare to the current Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP)?

The NRMP does consider the effects of climate change for the management of some natural hazards, in particular, inundation from the sea, and activities affected by these hazards (in particular development in hazard areas and coastal activities). However, it does not holistically address the effects of climate change, and the climate change predictions used to develop the NRMP are outdated. In contrast, the Draft Nelson Plan will integrate the effects of climate change throughout the plan, using the latest guidance from the Ministry for the Environment.

What other options does the Council have to respond to climate change?

We have listed some of the possible responses, and options in the following table. We would value your feedback on these options.

Energy Consumption and Emission Reductions	Modal Shift	Resilience
Higher density residential zoning around commercial centres and employment hubs (except where vulnerable to effects of river flooding and sea-level rise).	'Active transport' design options are incorporated into subdivision applications – including walking, cycling and personal mobility options	Minimum ground and floor levels for new subdivision or new habitable buildings are set to anticipate inundation from freshwater or seawater (including increased intensity of rainfall events and sea-level rise).
Non-notification statements in the Draft Plan for higher density development to encourage uptake		Reduce 'urban heating': <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Require Street trees for new roads 2. 20% landscaping & permeable surface required in front yards 3. Provide density bonus rights where mature trees or ecological corridors are maintained or created - which also assists with indigenous biodiversity resilience.
Clearly enable small-scale solar (sun-powered) and wind energy generation (within standards for noise/height)		Food resilience: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Gardens permitted activity in Residential zones 2. Retain rural zones for rural productive activities
Council activities to meet national emission reduction targets (Carbon Zero Act compliance) – may apply when there are applications for resource consents for Discretionary or Non-Complying activities.		
Restrict "urban sprawl" by only enabling rural subdivision where it supports rural activities or rural communities (applies to General Rural Zone only)	New road design anticipates multi-modal use	Adapt to increased rainfall: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secondary Flow paths for stormwater are provided to account for the predicted increase in rainfall intensity 2. Rainfall detention tanks for infill development is permitted and required where 'down-stream' council system does not have the capacity.



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<p>Bonus Density provisions where some or all of the following provisions are applied by the applicant through private covenants/ or offered as subdivision conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solar (sun-powered) energy is required 2. Buildings are oriented for passive solar heating 3. Eco-building performance standards are met 4. Carbon emission reduction targets are shown to be met (e.g. construction standards are carbon neutral). 	<p>Medium Density Residential zone located within walking distance of public transport facilities.</p>	<p>Anticipate increased frequency and duration of drought conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rainwater tanks are encouraged by allowing higher site coverage percentage where rainwater tanks are provided and tanks are exempt from boundary setback standards and/or site coverage standards. 2. Water allocation: water allocation rules maintain the ecological integrity of waterway during drought
<p>Air discharge controls increased.</p> <p>(Note: Waiting for an anticipated update to National Environmental Standard for Air Quality which is likely to introduce PM2.5 (particulate matter) – to improve air quality.)</p>	<p>Bonus Density or ‘no minimum lot size’ provisions apply where the residential activity is located within 500m of Public Transport routes</p>	<p>Wildfire risks managed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dams/ponds for water storage are permitted subject to standards (with allocated take during winter months) 2. Use of water permitted for firefighting and risk reduction purposes – up to limits that maintain the integrity of natural waterways. 3. Roading design in rural areas supports dual entry/exit 4. Subdivision design mitigates increased wildfire risk in peri-urban and rural areas.
<p>Set ‘Emission Reduction Targets’:</p> <p>Implement National Emission Reduction Plan when produced by Ministry for the Environment under the Resource Management Act</p>		<p>Adapt to sea-level rise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce coastal and flooding inundation maps, consult on response options using the Dynamic Adaptive Planning Pathways (DAPP) process recommended by the Ministry for the Environment. 2. Implement National Adaptation Plan – once produced by Ministry for the Environment under Resource Management Act.



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Further information on the Nelson Plan

This key information sheet provides an overview of how climate change is addressed 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.

To find the Climate change chapter refer to Part 2, SRMR CC – Climate change.

Related provisions are integrated throughout the Draft Nelson Plan, in particular: NH – Natural Hazards, CE – Coastal environment, ECO – Ecosystems and biodiversity, EIT – Energy, infrastructure and transport, and LF – Land and freshwater. These are all found in Part 3 of the Draft Nelson Plan.

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