

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.

COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY

What is meant by coastal and marine ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity in the Draft Nelson Plan?

The coastal environment is home to many of New Zealand/Aotearoa's indigenous plant and animal species. The area includes the sea (coastal marine area) and that part of the land margin where ecological elements (such as coastal vegetation and nesting areas for seabirds) and physical features (such as the boulder bank, estuaries and sand dunes) exist.

'Ecosystems' refers to the community of these plants and animals, and 'biodiversity' relates to all of the variety of these organisms and the habitats they live in.

What is Council trying to achieve in the Draft Nelson Plan?

There are four chapters in the Draft Nelson Plan which propose to address marine and coastal ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity:

SRMR – CE Coastal environment

CE-Coastal environment-CMA-Coastal marine area

CE-Coastal environment-Coastal margins

NEV-Natural environmental values

The purpose of these chapters is to protect against the loss of habitats and biodiversity and the values associated with them.

The Draft Nelson Plan includes provisions which would require the consideration and protection of coastal and marine indigenous animal and plant species as required by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. Appendix APP13 of the Draft Nelson Plan contains a list of coastal and marine indigenous

biodiversity habitats and listed species. These are based on a technical study undertaken by the Cawthron Institute (available on Council's website –

<http://www.nelson.govt.nz/assets/Environment/Downloads/Nelson-Plan/Nelson-Plan-Coastal-Final-Cawthron-report-2943-Advice-on-marine-biodiversity-inventory-November2016.pdf>

The marine and coastal habitats identified in APP13 are:

- *Terrestrial margins* (including sand dunes and coastal vegetation)
- *Estuaries and beaches* (including Waimea, Nelson Haven, Wakapuaka and Whangamoia/Kokorua estuaries)
- *Soft-sediment and subtidal (non-estuarine)* home to shellfish and fish food
- *Rocky reefs*, habitat for reef fish and seaweed
- *Sea surface and water column* including marine mammal resting and foraging habitat and passage

Listed marine and coastal species in the Draft Nelson Plan include the carabid beetle at Tahunanui Back Beach, banded dotterel and lamprey.

Additionally, Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) have been identified for the land, including land in the coastal environment. Further information on SNAs can be found in the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Key Information sheet and Frequently Asked Questions sheet.

Estuaries are important for the nesting, breeding and feeding habitats of many coastal and marine species including internationally listed migratory bird species. They also transport and trap nutrients and sediment.



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The significant threats to Nelson's marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity come from sedimentation, pest plants and animals and climate change.

There are marine pollution regulations that control ship contaminants which are outside the role of the Draft Nelson Plan.

What activities would I be able to do without a resource consent?

Some activities would be permitted when the impact on coastal and marine habitat and listed indigenous species (as set out in APP13) is minimal, such as recreational access and the use of the coastal marine area, or the use and maintenance of existing structures such as mooring structures and boat ramps.

What activities would need a resource consent?

Where the marine and coastal habitats and listed species listed in APP13 will be potentially impacted by an activity, a resource consent would generally be required. This would include a situation where the development standards for a permitted activity could not be met.

How would a resource consent be assessed?

The assessment of a resource consent where marine and coastal habitats and biodiversity are likely to adversely impact the habitats and species listed in APP13 would include:

- whether the activity could be avoided, remedied or mitigated
- whether there are opportunities to undertake measures that would benefit the habitat and biodiversity as part of the resource consent
- consideration of an ecological assessment - applications for a resource consent would likely need to be accompanied by an assessment

How has this changed from the current Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP)?

The Draft Nelson Plan provisions have been based on the existing Nelson Natural Resource Management Plan in addition to reflecting the requirements of the New Zealand Coastal Statement 2010. The Draft Nelson Plan proposes to move away from an Areas of Significant Conservation Value approach to one based on the identification of habitats for the entire coastal environment. APP13 provides a list of the habitats and listed species.

Further information on the Nelson Plan

This key information sheet is a summary of the provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan that relate to coastal and marine ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity. 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 chapters relating to coastal and marine ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity provisions refer to Part 2 CE – Coastal environment and ECO – Ecosystems and biodiversity; Part 3 CE Coastal environment and ECO - and Ecosystems and biodiversity.

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