

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.

EARTHWORKS

What is the Earthworks chapter all about?

The Earthworks chapter deals with a range of land disturbance activities, such as vegetation clearance, ground excavation and land re-contouring. It aims to manage such activities that otherwise might result in harmful effects such as soil loss, erosion, land instability and freshwater contamination.

What is the Earthworks chapter trying to achieve?

The Earthworks chapter proposes to allow for earthworks, land disturbance and vegetation clearance, provided that key harmful effects are managed. These harmful effects include the loss of quality soil, erosion, the contamination of freshwater resources with sediment, negative effects on ecosystems such as freshwater habitats, and land instability.

Policies seek to manage the scale, location, timing, duration and nature of earthwork activities, to manage those effects. They seek to encourage principles of good practice, such as low impact land development and minimising vegetation removal. The risk to people and property from land instability is also a key policy focus, alongside the management and protection of freshwater habitats from sedimentation.

The draft Earthworks rules generally address three kinds of activities, 'earthworks', 'land disturbance' and 'vegetation clearance'. In simple terms, earthworks are about earth movement and land excavation that involves a greater degree of modification, including activities such as constructing retaining walls and building platforms. Land disturbance rules deal with more moderate changes to land like the preparation of land for cultivation. Vegetation clearance rules focus on the removal of vegetation from land.

What would the draft Earthworks rules allow for?

Many activities involving earthworks would be permitted and do not require a resource consent provided that standards can be met:

Earthworks in Residential, Neighbourhood Centre and Local Centre Zones are permitted, as long as:

- They involve less than 750m² in area or less than 250m³ in volume over no longer than 12 month project period
- They are set back from the coast, banks of streams and rivers, wetlands
- Bare land and stockpiles of soil are managed
- The depth/height of excavation is less than 1.2m, or up to 3m where they are supported by a retaining wall or building, or authorised via a building consent.

In all other zones, the Draft Nelson Plan would allow earthworks, subject to the same standards, with the key difference being that the earthworks must be less than 2000m² in area or less than 500m³ in volume.

Earthworks associated with network utilities or in proximity to the national grid are also permitted, subject to standards that address, scale, setbacks and site management. Road construction earthworks must comply with the Nelson Tasman Land Development Manual.

Land disturbance activities and vegetation clearance would be allowed subject to standards, requiring them to be set back from streams, rivers, wetlands and the coast. Any permitted land disturbance must be sensitive to natural land contours and



**HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT
WHAKAMAHERE WHAKATŪ NELSON PLAN**

shape.nelson.govt.nz • nelson.plan@ncc.govt.nz



THE DRAFT WHAKAMAHERE WHAKATŪ NELSON PLAN KEY INFORMATION

manage stormwater run-off so as not to create excess sediment in water bodies.

Further controls on vegetation removal, particularly where it involves the clearance of indigenous vegetation, are also proposed in other parts of the Draft Nelson Plan, such as the Land and freshwater chapter and Ecosystems and biodiversity.

When would I need a resource consent?

A resource consent may be needed where an activity does not meet one or more of the development standards listed. Whether or not that consent will be granted will depend on many considerations, including how the activity fits with objectives and policies of the Chapter and assessment considerations.

Resource consents are assessed on a case-by-case basis but are guided by the standards and matters of assessment provided for in the rules. Assessment matters cover a range of factors including measures to manage and control erosion and sedimentation, effects on the flow of water during floods and visual effects on landforms and rehabilitation of vegetation.

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

The Earthworks provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan are similar to those in the current NRMP in that they seek to manage earthworks, land disturbance and vegetation clearance in a manner that protects the soil resource itself, as well as various parts of the environment (such as water bodies). However, the requirements for such activities to be set back from water bodies would apply to more streams than they do in the NRMP, in acknowledging that the way we manage our land can have a significant effect of water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Further information on the Nelson Plan

This key information sheet is a summary of the provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan that relate to Earthworks. 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 Earthworks provisions refer to Part 3, General Matters EW - Earthworks. Related provisions include NH - Natural Hazards, NFL - Natural features and landscapes, CNCFL – Coastal natural character, features and landscapes, ECO – Ecosystems and biodiversity, and LF – Land and freshwater. These are all found in Part 3 of the Draft Nelson Plan.

