

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.

LAND AND FRESHWATER

What is the Land and freshwater chapter about?

The Land and freshwater sections of the Draft Nelson Plan focus on the sustainable management of our freshwater resources. The Land and freshwater provisions aim to ensure that water is healthy and available for use by current and future generations, taking into account the effects of climate change.

National direction for the draft provisions comes from the National Policy Statement - Freshwater Management 2017 and the Resource Management Act. Together these direct Council and communities to maintain or improve water quality where it is degraded and to address over-allocation of water resources. The legislation also focuses on the management of land-based activities that are known to have significant adverse effects on the health of freshwater resources.

In August 2020, additional central government direction was released in the form of a replacement National Policy statement (NPS-FM 2020), a new National Environment Standards (NES-FM 2020) and new Resource Management (stock exclusion) regulation.

The Draft Nelson Plan has yet to fully incorporate these new requirements, although broadly speaking is considered to be in keeping with the general direction (based on Draft versions of the above documents and communication with the Ministry for the Environment). Further public engagement in early 2021 has been programmed to ensure that any changes to the Draft Plan arising from the new requirements are discussed with affected communities, and opportunities for feedback to them will be welcomed at that time.

What is the Land and freshwater chapter trying to achieve?

The Draft Nelson Plan has multiple objectives for land and freshwater and proposes policies to achieve them. Together, they identify what the Council would do under the Draft Plan to maintain or improve freshwater resources. This includes water quality and quantity as well as activities on and below the water surface.

The Draft Plan identifies the freshwater values we need to look after. Examples include swimmability, healthy freshwater that supports plants and animals, and cultural values. The draft objectives and policies also set limits for water takes, identify the importance of wetlands, manage the natural character of waterways and identify the value of land along the edges of waterways. Activities on and below the water surface are also covered by the Draft Nelson Plan.

To ensure it achieves its freshwater goals the Draft Plan provisions aim to manage

- contamination from domestic wastewater and stock effluent
- competing demands for the use of surface water and groundwater resources, such as community supply, stock water and irrigation
- vegetation clearance, earthworks and increased stormwater run-off
- disturbance or disruption to the beds or margins of freshwater resources
- improvements to water quality and habitat health improvements



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- freshwater habitats where threatened species may be at risk.

What rules would apply to freshwater?

A wide range of activities are proposed to be permitted:

- Discharge of uncontaminated stormwater to land
- Discharge of domestic wastewater to an approved wastewater management system
- Discharge of agrichemicals provided the discharge is to land or vegetation, to manufacturer's instruction and/or is intended specifically for freshwater situations
- Discharge of animal effluent and livestock wash-down waste, subject to approved treatment and managed land-based disposal
- Fertiliser application where it meets industry nutrient management code of practice
- Many farming practices such as dead animal and offal management, silage storage and composting, subject to management standards.

A range of activities affecting the surface, the beds and margins of waterways are also proposed to be permitted:

- The temporary crossing of a stream by livestock
- Recreational use that does not involve vehicle movement within the bed of the waterway
- Activities necessary to manage flood risk, including riverbank repair and erosion, debris removal
- Maintenance or removal of existing legally established structures
- New bridges, and culverts in rural zones subject to design standards
- Hydrological flow equipment
- Restoration activities, including wetland rehabilitation and planting of native or appropriate species
- Vehicle crossings, subject to conditions.

The Draft Plan proposes that water takes from surface or groundwater sources for domestic needs and animal drinking water would be permitted. Most other water takes for activities such as horticultural irrigation or community water supply would require a resource consent.

When would I need a resource consent?

A resource consent would be required where an activity is not in the list of activities above. Resource consent would also be required where one or more of the standards cannot be met.

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.

How would the approach to Land and freshwater change from the current Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP)?

The Draft Nelson Plan provisions focus on identifying the specific values of freshwater to be maintained, protected and enhanced, and the activities that may harm those values. This will ensure these activities can be considered in a focused manner.

Further information on the Nelson Plan

This key information sheet is a summary of the provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan that relate to Land and freshwater. 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 Land and freshwater provisions refer to Part 2 LF – Land and freshwater; Part 3 FW – Freshwater; FMU1 to FMU5 – Freshwater management units; APP25 – APP33 Land and freshwater appendices. Related provisions include Part 2 ECO – Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity; Part 3 PA – Public access.

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