

## 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.

### NATURAL CHARACTER AND NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES

#### What is natural character and what are natural features and landscapes?

Two key pieces of New Zealand legislation guide local authorities in their day-to-day management of the coastal and terrestrial environments. These include the Resource Management Act and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

In line with these national directives, the Draft Nelson Plan aims to protect and preserve areas across Whakatū Nelson which are highly valued. These identified areas include:

- **Outstanding Coastal Natural Character** – these are environments with comparatively low levels of human modification which are valued for their natural elements appearing in natural patterns and underpinned by natural processes. For example, Wakapuaka Inlet to Boulder Bank
- **Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes** – these are places that are important to the community and tangata whenua for several reasons, including biophysical, sensory, aesthetic and associative aspects. For example, Pepin Island, the Mineral Belt and Boulder Bank
- **Significant landscape character areas** – these are areas which are not recognised as ‘outstanding’ but are valued by the community for their visual and aesthetic appeal. For example, the City Backdrop and Skyline which includes the predominantly undeveloped skylines and hill slopes that form the immediate backdrop to Nelson City, and The Nelson Haven.

These areas in the Draft Nelson Plan have been identified based on a technical assessment undertaken using best practice methodology and extensive community engagement.

#### What is Council trying to achieve in the draft Nelson Plan?

By identifying areas of outstanding coastal natural character, and outstanding or significant natural features and landscapes the Council aims to ensure they are managed in a way that supports their preservation or protection.

The Draft Nelson Plan acknowledges that areas of outstanding natural character, and outstanding natural features and landscapes are working and living environments and therefore seeks to enable the continuation of these activities in appropriate circumstances and locations.

The Draft Nelson Plan provisions aim to carefully manage future land use development. For example, by encouraging the careful placement of new buildings, limiting their height, or providing screening.

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

Within the ‘outstanding natural features and landscapes’ and ‘outstanding coastal natural character’ overlays on the landward side of mean high water springs, permitted activities include:

- Fencing
- New structures less than 50m<sup>2</sup> in area and 7.5m in height
- Subdividing land, so long as no buildings are proposed in the overlays themselves
- Earthworks of less than 150m<sup>3</sup> in volume, 150m<sup>2</sup> in area or cut/fill faces no greater than 1m in height



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

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- Clearing vegetation, for cultivation, conservation planting or restoration, or the removal of exotic vegetation.

Within the 'City backdrop' overlay, permitted activities include:

- Fencing
- New structures on land in a section created before the Plan is made operative, or where subdivision approval for those structures has already been obtained; and
- Subdividing land, where buildings are proposed in the overlays themselves.

In Maitahi/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley, Tahunanui Beach, and Nelson Haven significant landscape character areas, the underlying zone or Coastal marine area provisions will need to be taken into account when applying for a resource consent.

If your property is affected by one of these overlays and you have concerns about the mapping extent or what these provisions might mean for you, we encourage you to get in contact with us directly.

### When might I need a resource consent?

Some activities could need a resource consent including:

- new structures on land that are larger than those described above
- new structures in the Coastal marine area; or
- carrying out earthworks that are more extensive than those described above
- electricity generation facilities in the 'outstanding natural features and landscapes' and 'outstanding coastal natural character' overlays.

Applications for resource consent would likely need to be accompanied by a landscape assessment.

Whether or not resource consent would be granted would depend on a number of considerations, including whether measures to mitigate the visibility of proposed buildings and structures can be identified.

### How have the coastal natural character, natural features and landscape provisions changed from the current Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP)?

The current NRMP does not identify areas of outstanding coastal natural character or outstanding natural features and landscapes. In including them, the Draft Nelson Plan seeks to recognise the national importance assigned to them under the Resource Management Act and give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010.

The NRMP does contain a landscape overlay that applies in the hills surrounding the city. However, this has been re-evaluated and the area it covers has been revised. Based on community feedback, the Draft Nelson Plan also identifies and manages new significant features and landscapes, namely the Maitai/Mahitahi/Maitai River Valley, Tahunanui and the Nelson Haven.

### 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 natural character and natural features and landscapes. 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](http://shape.nelson.govt.nz). To find the coastal natural character, natural features and landscape provisions refer to Part 2 NFL - Natural features and landscapes; Part NCFLC – Natural character, features and landscapes in the coast; Part 3 NC – Natural character; Part 3 NFL – Natural features and landscapes; Part 6 APP16 – APP18 – Coastal environment natural character landscapes and features in the coastal environment appendices; Part 6 APP37, APP38 – Natural features and landscapes.

