

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 HAZARDS: RIVER AND COASTAL FLOODING

Why does the Draft Nelson Plan not include river flood maps?

In 2017 we publically consulted on new river flood extent maps and Council received nearly 450 responses to the community engagement. As a result of the feedback, the consultant flooding engineers amended the flood models in some localised areas of Nelson.

Since 2017, the Ministry for the Environment has published guidance for Local Government on coastal hazards (including flooding) and climate change. NIWA also published updated storm rainfall datasets in August 2018, which were adopted for the new modelling and mapping. In 2020, a peer review of the revised maps identified that the modelling resulted in a flooding extent that needed further refinement. Flood models, flood engineering practices and Government guidance on how to best model and manage areas at risk from flooding hazards are constantly being updated.

As a result, the Council is re-running several river flood models using a range of different flood events to account for additional future climate change scenarios, as well as different levels of rainfall and tidal situations. The results from the modelling (including peer review) will be completed in late 2020/early 2021. The updated model results will show not only the extent of future flood areas but also the depth and force of moving water. The inclusion of flood depths and force of the flood water is important to enable consideration of the risks from flood events.

What about coastal inundation and erosion maps?

Council started a discussion with the community in early 2019 through a series of public drop-in sessions, a hui at Whakatu Marae, feedback survey, an online hub and one-on-one meetings. This engagement gave Council a significantly greater understanding of what people already know and have experienced concerning coastal hazards, and people's general appreciation of living with coastal natural hazard risks.

Council has now undertaken preliminary 'bathtub' modelling of coastal erosion and coastal inundation, the results of which will be made available in early November. Council is also undertaking more detailed modelling using a 'hydrodynamic' model of future coastal erosion and coastal flooding to capture the specific climatic and geographic situation for Nelson, new scientific and technical information as well as central government guidance on the effects of climate change. These maps will allow us to have further conversations about the potential options to manage this natural hazard and will be consulted on with the community in early 2021.

We must make decisions about how we manage these areas together as a community.

We need to use an approach to river and coastal flood management that balances the risks of flooding occurring while allowing for development that does not put people and property at significant risk. We will seek your feedback early in 2021 on the most appropriate approach for the management of activities and development in areas subject to flood hazard risk.



**HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT
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The output from flood models and community feedback will identify areas at general risk of flooding and areas of higher risk of flooding. Land within these areas is likely to be subject to rules that set out how Council plans to manage activities. At this stage, only preliminary objectives and policies about flood-affected areas have been drafted. We are keen to have your input on these, to ensure the community is comfortable with our approach to flood hazard management, before drafting rules.

What are the Natural Hazards chapter and Council trying to achieve when the maps don't show where the updated flooding hazard areas are?

The Draft Nelson Plan does not yet include the areas of updated flood hazard. However, the Natural Hazards chapter still contains objectives that set out the overall approach to ensure that development in these areas does not result in an increase in significant risk to people and property.

The Draft Nelson Plan also includes policies that set out the detail of the proposed approach to managing this risk by identifying flood-prone areas and providing for careful management of new development.

In so doing, the Draft Nelson Plan recognises the need to achieve a balance between enabling growth and development to meet people's needs and making sure that future communities are not put at risk from potential hazards. Policies also recognise the importance of public awareness of risk, so that people can make informed decisions about how to develop into the future.

What does this mean for me?

As part of this Draft Nelson Plan feedback process, the Council wants to discuss flood hazard management options with the community. This may include discussion about new rules and restrictions that can be used to manage the type of development that is appropriate in flood-affected locations.

Until the Draft Nelson Plan is publically notified, the Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP) rules still apply to any area that is identified in the current flood hazard overlays; the Inundation Practice Note details how to calculate the minimum ground and floor levels within these areas.

How has the approach to flood hazards changed from the current Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP)?

The current NRMP contains flood maps that were developed in the 1990s. However, it does not contain any maps relating to coastal inundation or erosion. Additional flood maps that were publically consulted on in 2017 are available on Nelson City Council's website and recorded in Council's property information. Where development is proposed in currently identified flood-prone locations, Council takes this into account when considering building and resource consent applications.

Further information on the Nelson Plan

This key information sheet is a summary of the provisions in the Draft Nelson Plan that relate to Flood hazards. 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 Flood hazard provisions refer to Part 2 HAZ – Hazards and risks; Part 3 NH – Natural hazards.

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