

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 FLOODING

Why do we map where rivers can flood and what do they show?

The Resource Management Act (1991) requires councils to identify and manage Natural Hazards, including river flooding. As part of the Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan process the natural hazard information needed to be updated. This included taking a long-term approach to river flooding hazards, modelling and mapping present and future river flood scenarios for at least 100 years.

The flood maps show maximum predicted area and depth of flooding resulting from a 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) rainfall event (which is a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded every year and is sometimes known as the 1 in 100-year flood).

The maps have been translated into three different flood hazard overlays in the Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan, for resource management purposes

- Flood hazard overlay
- High flood hazard overlay
- North Nelson flood hazard overlay

How do the updated river flood Maps differ from the Maps released in 2017?

In 2017 Nelson City Council publicly consulted on river flood extent maps and in reply received nearly 450 responses from the community. As a result of the feedback, the Council engaged consultant flooding engineers to review and revise the flood models in some localised areas of Nelson.

In addition, 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. 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 have been adopted for the revised modelling and mapping.

In 2020/2021 the Council re-ran the river flood models using a range of different flood events to account for additional future climate change scenarios including sea level rise, different levels of rainfall and tidal situations, and also modelled future flood events out to the year 2130 (the 2017 maps modelled events out to the year 2100).

These updated flood maps show both the extent of future flood areas and 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. This is common practice for Resource Management purposes.

How do these flood maps differ from the coastal inundation maps?

River flooding differs from coastal flooding. River flooding occurs when a river bursts its banks as result of sustained or intense rainfall. Coastal flooding is caused by extreme tidal conditions, including high tides and storm surges. There is a tidal influence to the river flooding at the lower reaches of the river which interacts with the incoming tide. The river flood models take this into account.

As many low lying areas near the coast will be affected by both river and coastal flooding, it is important to use an approach that balances the risk of flooding occurring, while allowing for development that does not put people and property at significant risk.

The Council released the initial coastal inundation mapping and associated LIM notices in 2020.

There is ongoing technical work and discussions with key stakeholders and the community about the risks of coastal hazards that the Council is progressing through the 'Dynamic Adaptive Planning Pathways approach'.



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Further public engagement will be carried out on Coastal Hazards as more information is finalised. Please keep an eye out on the Council's website for updates.

What is the Natural Hazards chapter and Council trying to achieve with the updated flooding hazard areas?

The Natural Hazards chapter 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.

The rules for the 'Flood hazard overlay', the 'High flood hazard overlay' and the 'North Nelson flood hazard overlay' manage activities and land use in a way that reflects the different hazard levels and also reflects the existing nature of these areas.

What does this mean for me?

As part of this Draft Nelson Plan feedback process, the Council wants to discuss flood hazard management rules with the community.

Until the Draft Nelson Plan is publicly notified, the Nelson Resource Management Plan (NRMP) rules still apply to any area that is identified in the current flood hazard overlays.

The Council Inundation Practice Note will continue to detail how to calculate the minimum ground and floor levels for new buildings and subdivision as part of a Building Consent or Resource Consent process. These draft rules do not affect existing buildings or approved plans.

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

Managing development in potentially flood prone areas is not a new concept for Nelson City Council.

The current NRMP contains flood maps that were developed in the 1990s. Additional flood maps that were publicly 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 already takes this into account when considering building and resource consent applications.

The approach that the Draft Nelson Plan proposes for managing development in flood prone areas is more aligned to the level of risk associated with the potential flooding.

The overall approach of keeping people safe from flood hazards has not changed.

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. You can find a comparison of how the draft rules differ from the current rules in our 'Comparison Table' as well as view the flood maps and Draft Nelson Plan content, please go to shape.nelson.govt.nz/nelson-plan

How can I give feedback?

We encourage you to provide feedback:

Online: shape.nelson.govt.nz/nelson-plan

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