

Draft District Plan Review:

District Wide Matters

OVERVIEW: ENERGY

This draft chapter has been prepared as part of Council's District Plan Review Project. The structure and layout of the chapter reflects the intended reformatting of the existing District Plan in accordance with the National Planning Standards 2019.

Council is working on reviewing the whole District Plan at present. The following overview is focused on the District Wide Matters part of the draft Plan that includes the following Chapters:

- SDO – Strategic Direction Objectives
- NU – Network Utilities
- CL – Contaminated Land
- HAZ – Hazardous Substances
- NH – Natural Hazards
- HH – Historic Heritage
- TREE – Notable Trees
- ECO – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity
- NATC – Natural Character
- NFL – Natural Features and Landscapes
- PA – Public Access
- ASW – Activities on the Surface of Water
- CE – Coastal Environment
- LIGHT – Light
- NOISE – Noise
- SIGN – Signs
- EW – Earthworks
- TEMP – Temporary Activities

Separate overview summaries have been provided for the Energy, Transport and Subdivision Chapters as these contain a higher level of change and new direction as a result of the review process. Also, these three Chapters are used more regularly compared to the rest of the list.

As a draft plan change we expect to be making changes to the provisions as we respond to matters raised in feedback, new technical advice received, and any change in national or regional direction. These changes will be made before public notification of the plan change documents under the Resource Management Act 1991 takes place. Public notification of the plan change will enable formal submissions to be lodged which can then be considered as part of a hearing and final decision-making process.

The focus of these chapters is to provide clear and concise direction on these specific issues that are considered to be relevant across the district as a whole. This part of the plan includes a number of provisions that are applied across multiple zones. A significant amount of the content here is

provided for by national standards and documents, and represent the 'best practice' approach across the Country and is already prescribed by these documents. This is particularly the case for the individual sections listed above. Therefore, it is not necessary to provide a separate detailed summary document of each at this stage in the process, but rather identify some of the key matters and changes that are proposed for these parts of the Plan.

Due to the number of substantive changes and consequential changes proposed across these chapters, each of the new Chapters will replace the existing chapter in its entirety. The main changes proposed by draft Plan Change, are outlined in the table below.

SUMMARY OF EACH CHAPTER AND THE KEY CHANGES BEING MADE

Chapter	Purpose of the Chapter	Primary changes proposed
Strategic Direction	<p>These set out the overarching objectives for the District that apply across all zones and all land. These are focused on provides strategic direction that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is strategically important for achieving integrated management and ensuring the Resource Management Act's purpose is achieved; gives effect to higher order documents such as National Policy Statements and the Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Policy Statement; and provides a basis for how decisions relating to resource use will be made over the life of the Plan. <p>The objectives are grouped into the following areas: Partnership; District Wide; Rural Land Resource; Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Change; and, Urban Form and Development.</p>	To better align the chapter with the National Planning Standards descriptions and to highlight the overarching objectives for the District.
Network Utilities	Provide for the provision of, and ongoing maintenance of, network utilities within the District. These primary include power and	To better reflect current best practice for managing network utilities. The provisions of this chapter have been update to be consistent with the best practice approach across the country for managing these activities. The chapter also

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	telecommunication facilities that provide services to the district.	includes standards relating to the height, location and setbacks that are to apply to new structures.
Contaminated Land	This chapter outlines that there are pieces of land that exist and are identified as being contaminated. The chapter outlines that there are important considerations to be had for any development on contaminated land.	Development of contaminated land is regulated by the National Environmental Standard for Contaminated Soils. The review of this chapter is to remove any provisions and refer this chapter back to with this standard and ensure that the Plan simply refers back to this document. This chapter only includes objectives and policies. No rule framework is provided here.
Hazardous Substances	This chapter outlines that the use of Hazardous Substances occurs within the district and that careful consideration must be had when any of these substances are used.	The use of hazardous substances in New Zealand is primarily managed by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act), the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSW Act) and relevant regulations. Because the District Plan seeks to avoid duplication of requirements and obligations that arise under other legislation and regulations, the provisions of this chapter are designed to manage the effects of use, storage, or disposal of hazardous substances, only to the extent that those effects are not within the ambit of existing legislation and regulations. This includes the location of significant hazardous facilities using or storing hazardous substances and the location of sensitive activities in relation to significant hazardous facilities.
Natural Hazards	The purpose of this zone is to outline the potential natural hazards that can occur throughout the districts and then to outline the activities that are sensitive to natural hazards.	<p>The reviewed chapter includes provisions relating to the following hazards, as they present the greatest risk to people, property, and infrastructure, and their effects can be managed through appropriate land use planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding; • Fault rupture; • Liquefaction; • Coastal inundation (including tsunami); and • Coastal erosion. <p>The core focus of this chapter is to ensure that these risks are identified through the development process and that suitable measures are undertaken to ensure that the risk and effects of such are appropriately mitigated, or avoided where necessary in relation to new development.</p>

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<p>Historic Heritage and Notable Trees</p>	<p>Section 6 of the RMA identifies 'the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development' as a matter of national importance. This chapter outlines that historic heritage can be found in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buildings, features, and trees of historic heritage value; • sites of archaeological importance; • sites of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu; and • areas of buildings or other features that, collectively, have significant historic heritage value. <p>Notable trees are those that have been identified and assessed as being of significant value for botanical and/or for historic, cultural, spiritual, landmark, or other community reasons. Trees may be identified as an individual stand-alone tree or a small group of trees where each tree within the group is protected. Notable trees include both exotic and indigenous species and have significance to the community.</p>	<p>To clearly outline the features, buildings and sites that have the potential to hold historic heritage values and ensure that adequate protection is provided in the Plan to ensure that this significance is not lost through new development. It is recognised that new activities have the potential to adversely effect heritage values and that protection is needed to give effect to Section 6 of the Act.</p> <p>The plan includes provisions to discourage the loss of heritage features and as far as possible, encourage the maintenance and enhancement of these moving forward.</p> <p>In the case of Notable trees, the plan outlines a list of those trees that hold protection status and provides a framework to ensure that these trees are maintained and looked after and that no activities compromise their importance moving forward.</p>
<p>Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity</p>	<p>The district has a rich biodiversity, including some special plants and animals that are unique to Taranaki. The RMA requires district councils to recognise and provide for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. In addition, a function of district councils under the RMA is the control of any effects of the use, development, or protection of land, for the purpose of maintaining indigenous biological diversity (abbreviated to 'biodiversity').</p>	<p>To align what is under the National Planning Standards as well as the National Policy Statements and Environmental Standards that relate to biodiversity.</p> <p>A number of activities have the potential to adversely affect remaining indigenous vegetation and fauna habitats. Such activities and their effects include uncontrolled stock grazing that can damage indigenous forest understorey and limit regeneration, and the fragmentation of remnant indigenous forest and natural inland wetland areas through clearance for pasture and exotic forestry. Other threats include feral animals, invasion of weeds, and drainage.</p>

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		<p>This chapter seeks to protect the Significant Natural Areas and maintain and enhance other indigenous biodiversity values through a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory methods. The regulatory methods are outlined in provisions of this chapter and other relevant chapters of the District Plan.</p>
<p>Natural Character, including Natural Features and Landscapes</p>	<p>This chapter addresses the natural character of freshwater environments, including rivers, lakes, natural inland wetlands, and their margins. Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 manage vegetation removal, earthworks, natural hazards works, infrastructure, and public access structures within 10m of natural inland wetlands.</p> <p>As such, the provisions outlined in this chapter do not duplicate any requirements for these activities and they are not managed through this chapter.</p> <p>The RMA requires the protection of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes in the district from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. These are the features and landscapes that are outstanding due to a range of factors, e.g. scientific matters, and aesthetic, transient, and cultural values.</p> <p>The Natural Features and Landscapes chapter comprises identified areas of Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes and Special Amenity Landscapes throughout the Wairarapa districts. These are district-wide overlays which apply across all zones containing these landscapes and features.</p>	<p>To align with the direction set under the National Planning Standards as well as the National Policy Statements and Environmental Standards that relate to natural character. The purpose of this chapter and the updated of the provisions is to limit and manage any activities in close proximity to areas of natural character and natural features and landscapes.</p>

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Public Access	<p>The District Plan has an important role in providing for public access to and along surface waterbodies and the Coastal Marine Area throughout the district.</p> <p>This role includes the provision of esplanade reserves or esplanade strips when land is subdivided. Waterbodies that are of particular significance for public access within their margins are identified as Significant Waterbodies. The associated rules to manage inappropriate use and development within the margins of these Significant Waterbodies is located within the Natural Character chapter.</p>	<p>This Public Access chapter contains revised provisions including objectives and policies relating to public access. Rules relating to esplanade reserves and esplanade strips are contained in the Subdivision Chapter. These provisions align with the Subdivision Chapter and are considered at the time of any subdivision consent or any land use consent within the margins of the Coastal Marine Area or surface waterbody.</p>
Activities on the Surface of Water	<p>The district has numerous rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands, which are valued for a range of conservation, recreation, cultural, amenity, and intrinsic reasons. These values are both physical and spiritual and waterways have a particular significance to Māori who respect waterways as living entities with their own life force (Mauri).</p> <p>The surface of waterbodies is used for a range of activities, mainly recreational, and some food gathering. This chapter manages the effects arising from activities on the surface of these waterbodies.</p>	<p>Update the chapter to reflect the requirements of the National Planning Standards. No substantial change is included here, the new chapter includes a roll over of best practice provisions for the management of activities on surface water.</p>
Coastal Environment	<p>Council is responsible for managing activities on land (the landward side of Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS)), and the Regional Council is responsible for activities in the Coastal Marine Area (seaward of MHWS) through the Natural Resources Plan.</p> <p>Integrated management is necessary to manage activities that cross the</p>	<p>The District Plan must give effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS), which requires a strategic approach to managing development on the coast.</p> <p>The Coastal Environment chapter sits alongside the underlying zone chapters. Objectives, policies, and rules of both this chapter and the associated zone chapter are applicable to any activities within the coastal environment. Generally, this chapter manages the effects of activities through effects-</p>

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	jurisdictional boundary between regional and district councils.	based provisions which differs from the activity-based provisions of the zone chapters.
Light, Noise, and Signs	<p>These chapters outline the regulatory context for each matters and recognise that each have the potential to result in adverse effects on the environment.</p> <p>The noise rules and standards in this chapter provide the noise limits for specific activities and zones. Other than where expressly provided for, noise levels arising from activities must be measured in accordance with NZS6801:2008 Acoustics - Measurement of Environmental Sound and assessed in accordance with NZS6802:2008 Acoustics - Environmental Noise.</p> <p>Signs and associated advertising structures are an integral and necessary part of both urban and non-urban environments. Signs promote business, community facilities, and other activities, and are useful and necessary for wayfinding and safety. However, poorly located or designed signs can result in visual clutter and undermine a range of values, including amenity, heritage, and character values of a place or zone, including from light spill and glare from digital and illuminated signs.</p> <p>Residential amenity is particularly sensitive to noise, artificial light, and other site-specific adverse effects. These effects can seriously impact upon health and create considerable animosity between neighbours. The policies and rules have been established to protect residents from such adverse effects.</p>	Update the chapter to reflect the requirements of the National Planning Standards. No substantial change is included here, the new chapter includes a roll-over of best practice provisions for the management of activities that include light, noise and signs. Generally, this chapter manages the effects of activities through effects-based provisions which differs from the activity-based provisions of the zone chapters.

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Earthworks	<p>This chapter outlines that earthworks have the potential to result in adverse effects on the environment. It is acknowledged that earthworks are largely managed by the regional council. Therefore, this chapter is intended to compliment that of the regional council and ensure integrated management is provided to manage activities that cross the jurisdictional boundary between regional and district councils.</p>	<p>Update the chapter to reflect the requirements of the National Planning Standards. No substantial change is included here, the new chapter includes a roll-over of best practice provisions for the management of activities that include earthworks. Generally, this chapter manages the effects of activities through effects-based provisions which differs from the activity-based provisions of the zone chapters.</p>
Temporary Activities	<p>Temporary activities are activities that are of a non-repetitive, transient nature and include entertainment, cultural and sporting events, temporary military training activities, markets, filming, and activities associated with construction. Temporary activities have economic, cultural, and social benefits for the districts. Adverse effects including noise, traffic, and impacts on visual amenity are generally minor due to their short duration, provided some limitations are in place.</p>	<p>Update the chapter to reflect the requirements of the National Planning Standards. No substantial change is included here, the new chapter includes a roll-over of best practice provisions for the management of temporary activities.</p> <p>Temporary activities are exempt from complying with the rules in Part 3 - Area Specific Matters, unless specifically stated to the contrary.</p> <p>Temporary activities on land that contains an overlay may be subject to additional provisions in the relevant overlay chapter, including objectives and policies. Activities that do not fall within the definition of temporary activity are dealt with in the chapter for the relevant zone.</p>