

Light & Noise

Our vision for Lower Hutt is to create a city where everyone thrives.

To do this, we need to protect and improve our natural environment and grow our city in a way that is sustainable and meets the needs of all of us who call Lower Hutt home. One of the ways we do this is through the District Plan, which sets the rules for how we use land and develop our city.

The District Plan is going through a top-to-bottom review. How do we protect what we love and provide what we need as a city? That's where you come in – feedback on the draft plan is open until 15 December 2023. Following that, we'll have a statutory submission process on a proposed plan in 2024.

From protecting the environment to managing natural hazards and preserving our built heritage, there's a lot to consider. The District Plan is an important document that influences the future of our city, so find out more and have your say!

Find out more at
hutt.city/dpreview



The rules in the Light chapter aim to protect people from bright light and glare at night that may be annoying, unsafe to traffic, or that disturbs nocturnal wildlife.

This chapter also controls light that spills upwards and degrades views of the night sky.

The Noise chapter limits dangerous or annoying noise and vibration.

The permitted limits for light and noise vary in different zones across the city. There are limits on how exterior lights must be positioned, and the amount of light that can spill into other properties.

The Noise chapter also explains the requirement for extra sound insulation for homes and other sensitive activities near railways, highways and in main commercial centres.

Council's monitoring officers will continue to respond to light and noise complaints, measure against the regulations and enforce where necessary.



How much is changing?



Little

A lot

Understanding our District Plan review

What are we proposing?

Both light and noise are controlled in the current plan, but we're proposing:

- Updating technical standards for how light and noise are measured to be consistent with national requirements, latest practice and other cities in the region.
- Lower limits for light spill, especially in residential and rural areas.
- Light limits that also manage effects on the night sky, wildlife and traffic safety.
- Making noise limits consistent within each zone, with lower limits at night, evenings and weekends.
- Compared to the current plan, noise limits are similar during the day, lower at night, and increased on Sundays (to match Saturdays).

FAQs

What sort of things can I give feedback on?

- How should noise and light limits vary at different times of the day and week?
- How should noise and light limits vary in different zones?
- Are there sites or activities that should have exemptions or stronger controls?
- Should the Light chapter try to protect views of the night sky?
- Should there be stronger limits on light near the foreshore and areas of native vegetation to protect wildlife?

Does the Light chapter control street lighting?

No, council-operated street lighting is run by Council's Transport team.

Does the Noise chapter include noisy cars, sound offs and street racers?

No, noise limits for cars are set in national legislation and enforced by the police.

Does the Noise chapter cover noisy parties and sound systems?

Yes, it contains the rules that Council's noise control officers can enforce and includes the authority to seize sound systems.

We're keen to hear from you

Go to hutt.city/DPSurvey or drop off your submission at any Hutt City Council neighbourhood hub.

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