

# Natural Hazard Risks

*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](https://hutt.city/dpreview)**

The District Plan's rules and policies are an important way of managing the impacts of natural hazards on life, property, roads and other infrastructure.

Lower Hutt is at risk from a range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, flooding, slope instability and coastal hazards. Climate change has an increasing impact, particularly on flood hazards and coastal inundation.

Areas at risk from natural hazards are mapped in natural hazard overlays. Our draft District Plan maps at [hutt.city/maps](https://hutt.city/maps) enable you to search any address to see overlays for:

- The Wellington Fault and the Wellington Fault Induced Subsidence Area
- Liquefaction areas
- Tsunami areas
- Flood hazard areas (including stream corridors and overland flowpaths)
- Coastal inundation areas

These areas are ranked as high, medium or low hazard areas, depending on the likelihood and potential consequences associated with the hazard.

While managing natural hazard risk is a moral responsibility, Hutt City Council is also required to manage natural hazard risk under the Resource Management Act and the Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement. It's vital to provide for the health and safety of our communities and the resilience of the infrastructure that services them.

## How much is changing?



### What are we proposing?

This is a significant change from the current District Plan, which mainly focuses on residential activities. The draft District Plan continues to address residential activities but also applies new restrictions to other activities, including community facilities and commercial and industrial activities.

- There are some areas where building a home or activities like running a retirement home or early childhood education facility are more vulnerable to local hazard risks. Anyone wanting to undertake a new hazard-sensitive activity in a Medium or High Hazard Area will need to obtain a resource consent to demonstrate that the risk is acceptable based on the specific location and design of the development.
- Anyone wanting to undertake a new activity that is less vulnerable to hazards (such as a warehouse or temporary activity), or undertake an activity in a Low Hazard Area, is unlikely to need a resource consent (although this may be subject to design standards for new buildings).

### FAQs

What kind of feedback can I give on this topic?

#### What kind of land use and development should we enable or prevent in areas with a relatively low hazard risk?

These could be areas that will experience ponding in heavy rainfall events or low levels of coastal inundation or tsunami risk.

#### What kind of land use and development should we enable or prevent in areas with a relatively high hazard risk?

These could be areas with frequent flooding, frequent coastal inundation or areas on the Wellington Fault.

#### Who prepared the new flooding maps in the draft District Plan?

The flooding maps included in the draft plan have been prepared by Wellington Water. The Greater Wellington Regional Council also recently provided new flooding maps relating to Te Awa Kairangi Hutt River and Waiwhetū Stream. These maps have not been included in the draft District Plan. Hutt City Council, Wellington Water and the Greater Wellington Regional Council will work together to ensure an integrated and consistent approach to the flood hazard mapping for the Proposed District Plan when it is released next year.