



Frequently Asked Questions about the draft District Plan

Why has Council prepared a draft District Plan?

There is no requirement for Council to prepare a draft before introducing a proposed District Plan for formal consultation. However, sharing this draft beforehand means you can let us know whether we're on track, and we can make improvements before releasing a proposed plan in 2024.

How much say can I have in the direction of the plan?

Some aspects of the draft plan are dictated by central Government and Greater Wellington Regional Council policy and directives, but there are many places where the public can give feedback on the level of permissiveness or restrictions for various activities in different zones and areas. The survey on the draft District Plan has now closed, but there will be another opportunity for input when the proposed District Plan is released in 2024.

Hasn't Hutt City Council just changed its District Plan?

Yes, Council recently completed Plan Change 56. However, this related only to the scale and density of development in the residential and commercial areas of the city. The draft District Plan involves a comprehensive top-to-bottom rewrite.

Why is the draft plan set out so differently from the current District Plan?

The draft plan is written in line with National Planning Standards (2017), which requires all new District Plans to follow the same structure, terminology and mapping standards. This is to provide a more consistent, nationwide approach and is not something that can be changed through the consultation process.

Why is Council rewriting the District Plan now when the Resource Management Act has been replaced by new legislation?

The Natural and Built Environment Act came into force in August 2023, and this requires a complete refresh of all planning documents across the country. However, there is a long transition process for this to happen, potentially a decade or longer. Our current District Plan needs updating now.

What is the difference between a regional plan and a district plan?

Regional councils are responsible for managing environmental issues relating to the coast, waterways, soil conservation and air quality. City councils are responsible for managing the use and development of land. The District Plan covers things like subdivision of land, the height and location of buildings, commercial and industrial developments, heritage, noise and managing risks from natural hazards.

Why doesn't the draft District Plan include any requirement for new developments to provide on-site parking?

The Government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 means councils can no longer require onsite parking for new developments, but people can provide parking if they want to.

Why have potential Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) not been included in the draft District Plan?

The National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) provides the key directions on how Council should identify and protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna (or SNAs). The NPS-IB was released in July 2023 and there has not been sufficient time for Council to identify and provide protection for SNAs in the draft District Plan. We will be getting in touch with landowners of potential SNAs in 2024 as part of the District Plan review process.