

New Plymouth District Plan

Taranaki region | May 2023

What is the New Plymouth District Plan?

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) every local authority in New Zealand must have a District Plan, which creates policies and rules for how land and natural resources can be used. New Plymouth notified the decision version of the New Plymouth District Plan on 13 May 2023.



Key successes

- Definition of highly productive land included in line with the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL)
- Protection for highly productive land in subdivision policies, recognition in objectives for Rural Production Zone (RPROZ) and Future Urban Zone (FUZ) rules
- Requirement for subdivision design to manage the potential reverse sensitivity effects at the urban/rural interface
- Definition for cultivation, artificial crop protection structures, crop support structures included. Cultivation is excluded from generic earthworks rules
- Smaller setback requirement for artificial crop protection structures (5 meters instead of originally proposed 20 meters)

Summary of decision

| Notified Provisions | Summary of decision |
|-----------------------------|--|
| WB-R4: Permitted Activities | Earthworks must be set back at least 10 m from natural waterbodies. This rule does not apply to (amongst other things): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• natural hazard mitigation activities;• pump houses not associated with pumping wastewater; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • network utilities poles and masts for the purposes of supporting lines across a waterbody or thrusting lines underneath the bed of a waterbody; • post and wire fences; • existing tracks; • and restoration planting. |
| SUB-O2, RPROZ-O3, RPROZ-O4, RPROZ-O5: Objectives; SUB-P1, SUB-P8, SUB-P10, SUB-P12, SUB-P14: Policies | Protects highly productive land in the Rural Production Zone from inappropriate use and development and manages potential reverse sensitivity effects at the urban/rural interface. |
| EW-R13: Permitted Activities | <p>This applies to earthworks to manage biosecurity incursions:</p> <p>Earthworks are permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in any 12 month period, the total volume of earthworks does not exceed 250m³ per site; and • all Earthworks Effects Standards are complied with. |
| NOISE-S1 | This noise effects standard applies to audible bird scaring devices. Refer to the rule in its entirety for greater detail. |
| RPROZ-S3 | This effects standard designates maximum shelter belt heights close to the south-facing edge of properties. Refer to the rule in its entirety for greater detail. |
| RPROZ-S6 | <p>This rule sets out maximum gross floor areas for rural buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For rural produce retail activities: 40m² and no more than one per site. • For intensive indoor primary production: 6,000m² per site. • All other buildings: on sites smaller than 4ha: 400m² per site (total maximum for all other buildings per site). <p>This standard does not apply to residential units, greenhouses and tunnel houses.</p> |

What next?

Parties have a period of 30 working days (26 June 2023) to lodge an appeal on points of law with the Environment Court. If the decision is not appealed by any party, the provisions will become operative. HortNZ has decided not to appeal the decision.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [New Plymouth District Council website](#)

- Information about the plan process on the [HortNZ's website](#)