

OFFICER'S HEARING INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Coastal Environment

Reporting Officer: Brooke Hemmings

Hearing Date: 2 December 2024

1. Introduction

My name is Brooke Hemmings, and I am the author of the Coastal Environment chapter. I am employed as a Graduate Policy Planner within Napier City Council's City Development team. My qualifications include a Bachelor of Social Science in Political Science, Education and Public Policy.

I have been involved in the Proposed District Plan since January 2024, and while I have prepared the Section 42A report for the matters relating to the Coastal Environment topic, I was not involved in drafting the Proposed District Plan chapter or Section 32 report.

I have read the submitter evidence in relation to the Coastal Environment chapter.

I am happy to take questions and end of my statement.

2. Overview of the Coastal Environment Topic

The Coastal Environment chapter addresses the preservation and sustainable management of Napier's coastal environment, aligning with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS 2010). This chapter sets out objectives and policies to manage subdivision, use, and development in a manner that protects and enhances the natural and cultural values of the coastal environment.

3. Matters Raised in Submissions

There were 74 submission points and 20 further submission points received regarding the Coastal Environment chapter. Among these submissions, key themes included:

1. **Alignment with the NZCPS 2010** – Several submitters, including the Department of Conservation and Forest and Bird, highlighted that the Coastal Environment chapter needs to

better align with the NZCPS 2010, specifically in addressing natural character, public access, and avoiding adverse effects from inappropriate subdivision and development.

2. **Significant Infrastructure** – Submitters such as KiwiRail and the Port of Napier requested that the chapter more clearly acknowledge the functional and operational needs of significant infrastructure within the coastal environment, including transportation networks and ports.
3. **Minor Amendments** – Various submitters sought minor changes to the chapter, including clarifying definitions and objectives and ensuring consistency with the language used in the NZCPS 2010.
4. **Out-of-Scope Requests** – A few submissions suggested changes outside the scope of the Coastal Environment chapter, such as restrictions on vehicle and dog access in sensitive coastal areas.
5. **Rules** – Submissions sought that rules be added to the coastal environment chapter.
6. **Mapping** – Some submissions raised concerns about the accuracy and extent of coastal environment mapping and requested clarity on how specific areas are categorised, particularly with respect to areas of high natural character.
7. **Miscellaneous**
8. **Areas of Natural Character** – concerns about the mapping of areas with significant natural character.

I have recommended amendments based on these themes.

4. Responses to Pre-Circulated Expert Evidence

Pre-circulated submitter evidence and statements were received from a number of submitters. I have read this evidence and am prepared to respond to any questions or matters raised in relation to the information provided. I believe that in some cases there is some scope to make changes to address the concerns raised but wish to hear from the submitters before providing a response.

5. Matters Raised by the Panel

No matters have been raised by the panel in advance of this hearing.

6. Key Matters in Contention on the Coastal Environment Chapter

The primary matters in contention revolve around ensuring that the chapter gives full effect to the NZCPS 2010, particularly concerning the preservation and enhancement of the natural character of the coastal environment. Additionally, the balancing of infrastructure needs, accurate mapping, and addressing climate change impacts have been key issues raised in submissions. These matters are addressed through recommended amendments to the chapter, which are outlined in Appendix A of the report.

Thank you, I am happy to take questions.