
Submission on Napier City Proposed District Plan

Form 5 Submission on publically notified proposal for policy statement or plan, change or variation

Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Napier City Council - Planning Unit

Date received: 12/12/2023

Submission Reference Number #:96

This is a submission on the following proposed plan (the **proposal**): Napier City Proposed District Plan

Submitter:

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I wish to be heard: Yes

I am willing to present a joint case: Yes

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission?

- **No**

Are you directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that

(a) adversely affects the environment; and

(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

- **No**

Submission points

Point 96.1

Section: ECO - Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

Sub-section: ECO - Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

Provision:

Napier City Council's District Plan is required by law and serves as the City's rulebook governing land use and development in Napier City. This review, which is required under the RMA, only comes about once every 10 years and provides an opportunity to reassess how and where development can occur.

The District Plan review looks at the major planning and environmental issues facing Napier and includes:

- Growth and infrastructure
- Protecting biodiversity
- Managing the risk of natural hazards
- Responding to climate change
- Protecting our natural and cultural values
- Protecting our historic heritage

The Proposed District Plan is now open for submissions. Due to the magnitude of Cyclone Gabrielle in February, Council needs to reassess some chapters, and therefore cannot notify the Proposed Plan in full.

The following chapters will be notified as a Plan Variation for submissions later in the review process:

- Sites of Significance to Māori
- Natural Hazards
- Indigenous Biodiversity – this is due to the timing of the release of the new National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the significant change from the exposure draft, which officers were working off in preparing this chapter.

You will be informed of the variation to the Proposed Plan and the opening of submissions for the remaining chapters in due course.

Sentiment: Amend

Submission:

1. National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity clearly states; *on the process of identifying important indigenous biodiversity and how it should be protected.* Unquote. Save the Dotterels, Hawke's Bay fully support this NPS.
2. Protection of our Notable Features and Landscapes - Significant Natural Areas.

All our coastline / beaches are Significant Natural Areas, they harbour and support many unique species. Some of New Zealand's endemic birds breed on these beaches and coastlines e.g. banded dotterel, New Zealand dotterel, variable oystercatcher, black-billed gull, white-fronted tern. With the exception of the w.f. tern these birds are found only in New Zealand, they are all at risk and in decline. Surely, we have a responsibility to preserve our natural biodiversity for future generations. Native skinks and many invertebrates also inhabit our coasts – beaches are unique ecosystems within themselves. We would like to see at least a portion of Napier's coastline classed as a Significant Natural Area.

We fully realise that beaches are also very popular with people for many varieties of recreation – however, we do need some compromise so that the unique wildlife that the beaches harbour is protected.

We would like to see all Napier's coastline treated with far more respect than it is now – referring to vehicles on beaches; fires on beaches (destroy nesting areas, create huge stress to wildlife and kill the invertebrates the birds etc feed on); and dogs off lead on beaches during shore-bird breeding seasons. There needs to be stricter controls around Guy Fawkes night on beaches and the 'No Fires' on beaches Bylaw needs to be enforced.

Our group has been monitoring banded dotterels at both the Bayview / Westshore sites for the last two breeding seasons and the Awatoto Beach site this season – they are far from sustaining their numbers and we have serious concerns that these birds are going to be lost from Napier's beaches – once gone they are gone forever.

The banded dotterel could be seen as a *Flagship* species i.e. – ‘a species chosen to raise support for biodiversity conservation in a given place’. It can also be seen as an *Umbrella* species – i.e. ‘by protecting this species it indirectly protects many other species’.

Relief sought

We would like to see at least a portion of Napier’s coastline classed as a Significant Natural Area.