

conservation

| COd | Description |
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| COd.1 | The Conservation Zone comprises land which is mainly in conservation oriented ownership. It includes the most distant series of ranges in Nelson District (the Bryant Range), running along the backbone of the District from the catchment boundary of Roding River to Cape Soucis in the north. The land included in the Zone is generally unmodified or regenerating vegetation and often has high conservation values. The Zone also includes significant portions of conservation estate such as the Nelson Boulder Bank and other areas of coastal reserve, and the Nelson Mineral Belt. |
| COd.2 | The land is largely under some form of protection, being forest park and other reserve land administered by the Department of Conservation, and the waterworks reserves areas and other reserves administered by Nelson City Council. |
| COd.3 | The Council’s approach to the management of this area is to maintain it as far as possible in its natural state. There is little likelihood of development occurring in this area given its legal and public status, other than development which is in accordance with management plans for the areas involved. |
| PC14 COd.4 | See the objectives and policies relating to zones in Chapter 5. |

objective

CO1 maintenance of the visual backdrop

Retention of the largely unmodified landscape backdrop to the District.

Reasons

CO1.i This area is the wider landscape setting of Nelson. It is the most remote backdrop which helps identify Nelson as being a “green” environment with a focus on natural values. Interruption of this pattern could seriously impact on the scenic value of Nelson, which the community has identified as being of particular importance.

policy

CO1.1 land disturbance and structures

Activities, particularly land disturbance and location of structures, should not adversely affect the appearance of the backdrop when viewed from the urban areas, the coast or from the State Highway.

Explanation and Reasons

CO1.1.i Activities such as clearance of vegetation or the erection of structures have the potential to interrupt the natural appearance of the skyline and the surrounding backdrop areas. There may be a need for some of these activities to occur, and this policy is designed to ensure that where such disruption occurs, it does not compromise the primary views, or that the effects are remedied or mitigated or are temporary.

Methods

- CO1.1.ii Introduce rules which minimise visual disruption to the skyline on a temporary or permanent basis.
- CO1.1.iii Encourage necessary public utilities to co-locate.

policy

CO1.2 landscape cohesions and pattern

Activities within the Conservation Zone should not result in a loss of cohesion of the existing landscape nor result in changes to its patterns.

Explanation and Reasons

CO1.2.i The landscape of the Conservation Zone is one of natural landforms and natural vegetation with an absence of roads, structures and introduced vegetation species. While changes within these natural attributes can be readily absorbed into the landscape, significant departure from these forms and patterns is unlikely to be absorbed and may reduce the quality of the overall landscape.

Methods

- CO1.2.ii Rules containing the range of activities and the way in which they are undertaken within the Zone.

objective

CO2 maintenance and enhancement of the natural values

Maintenance and enhancement of the natural values contained within the Conservation Zone including:

- a) *safeguarding the viability of natural features and systems, and*
- b) *the life supporting capacity of ecosystems, and*
- c) *natural and cultural features*

Reasons

CO2.i The natural character and values of the area are important components in the setting of Nelson, and give character and form to the District. The natural character contains many elements which are important locally, regionally and nationally such as occurrence and diversity of indigenous species, and in particular, large and important areas of unmodified habitat. It also contains significant cultural and archaeological features, such as argillite quarries which were a source of material for Maori for making tools, old European mine workings, and unusual natural geological features.

CO2.ii The natural character of the area can be threatened not just by activities themselves, but as a result of past introductions of exotic flora and fauna which have the potential to displace or otherwise upset the natural balance of ecosystems.

policy

CO2.1 protection of natural and cultural features

Activities should not damage, threaten, or detract from natural and cultural features.

Explanation and Reasons

CO2.1.i Many important sites have been identified in this Plan and have been given protective status. It is important that these, and any yet undiscovered sites, are treated with particular care within this environment which has been set aside for conservation. Insensitive treatment can damage features as much as actually destroying them by removing the context within which a feature sits. An example might be cutting a road adjacent to an interesting geological feature which cuts it off from its parent material, but doesn't damage the feature itself.

Methods

- CO2.1.ii Identify Archaeological Sites on Planning Maps and include rules related to their disturbance.

policy **CO2.2 protection of natural ecosystems**

Activities should not damage, harm, or introduce changes which may harm, natural ecosystems.

Explanation and Reasons

CO2.2.i Some activities may introduce changes which have the potential to disrupt natural systems. An example is the introduction of exotic forestry close to vulnerable areas where windblown seed can result in wilding exotic vegetation taking over from native vegetation. Examples of this can already be seen in parts of the Dun Mountain area, damaging the appearance and native vegetation. Forestry in these areas must take care to identify and avoid “take-off” sites where local wind conditions are likely to favour exceptionally wide or long distribution of seed. Such sites often occur in saddles between catchments which act as wind funnels.

CO2.2.ii Other examples are the inadvertent effects that have arisen through the introduction of flora and fauna which have become pests and endanger ecosystems and other natural values. The key example in this area is the effect of possums on indigenous flora.

Methods

- CO2.2.iii Education of the public about the importance and context of important sites.
- CO2.2.iv Rules which enable discretion to be exercised over the location of activities in relation to sites and ecosystems and opportunities to consider environmental compensation.
- CO2.2.v Pest management strategies:
- creation of pest management strategies under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
 - advocacy that all lands within the District be subject to the provisions of any pest management strategy created for the District.

COe environmental results anticipated and performance indicators

COe.i The following results are expected to be achieved by the above objectives, policies and methods. This means monitoring whether the Plan achieves the outcomes intended:

| Anticipated Environmental Result | Indicators | Data Source |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| COe.1 Maintenance and enhancement of natural values | COe.1.1 The health and viability of plant and animal communities | Regular flora and fauna surveys |
| COe.2 Maintenance of the visual backdrop to Nelson | COe.2.1 The visual characteristics of Nelson’s landscape setting | Regular photographic coverage |

