



## COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS

The Resource Management Act 1991 says that natural hazards are a 'matter of national importance'.

All over New Zealand, Councils are obliged to keep communities safe and protect the local environment. This means taking all aspects of these hazards into account as we make decisions about planning and consenting decisions.

Nelson City Council is currently reviewing its resource management plans and developing a new unitary plan – the 'Nelson Plan'.

As part of this review, we are legally required to identify coastal areas that could be impacted by coastal erosion and flooding over the next 100 years, and to appropriately manage these areas.

To help us work out how to do this, we have engaged consultants who have a great deal of experience with assessing and managing coastal risks. But they can only tell us part of the picture – we need your local knowledge and ideas to create a better outcome.

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## MANAGING THE RISKS TOGETHER

We are working with the community to identify and manage risks arising from coastal hazards in our city.

This process is likely to take a couple of years, and will involve the following steps:

1. Create a common understanding of 'what is happening' along our coasts
2. Explore 'what is affected' and 'what matters most' to us as a community
3. Identify and evaluate 'what we can do about it' to develop an adaptation strategy
4. Implement the strategy and monitor the outcomes to assess 'how it is working' and readjust when needed.

You'll have the opportunity to share your knowledge, thoughts and ideas with us throughout the process, by coming along to our public events and workshops, via an online platform and by getting in touch with us directly. We'll also keep you updated through our website, through local media and an e-mail newsletter.



### CONTACT US

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# COASTAL HAZARDS

Let's work together to build a resilient coastal community



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 Nelson City Council  
te kaunihera o whakatū



## WHAT ARE COASTAL HAZARDS?

Some of Nelson's urban development and infrastructure is situated along its coastline, including the Haven, estuaries, creeks, lowland rivers and on low lying land.

These areas are affected by natural events including wave action, tidal movement, currents, wind and weather. Depending on the lie of the land, coastal areas can experience:

- Coastal erosion – where the shoreline retreats on a temporary or permanent basis.
- Coastal inundation – the flooding of low-lying coastal land. Flooding can happen when man-made or natural barriers are breached, or storm water systems are overwhelmed by extreme weather or particularly high sea levels.

Natural forces can pose risks in the form of property damage, loss of life, environmental degradation or threats to other things valued.

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## HOW DO COASTAL HAZARDS AFFECT US?

Many of our coastal areas have experienced the impacts of storm events, such as the cyclones in February 2018. These events caused temporary flooding of low-lying coastal and nearshore properties in places like Monaco and The Wood. Coastal properties such as The Boathouse, campgrounds, roads and other infrastructure were severely damaged.

We've also seen the long term effects of natural cycles (e.g. the eastward migration of the Blind Channel causing Tahunanui Back Beach to retreat).

Average sea levels in Nelson have risen by an average of 1.52mm/year over the last century. Science predicts that sea levels will continue to rise in the future, and that increases in rainfall and more frequent extreme weather events will lead to bigger risks from coastal hazards.

How we respond to and are prepared to cope with the impact of these changes will determine the risks our city faces in the future.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

There are several options to respond to coastal hazards and sea level rise.

These include 'hard protection' in form of structural engineering (e.g. construction of sea walls) and 'soft protection' that works with natural processes (e.g. dune and wetland restoration, beach replenishment).

We can also set rules and write plans to set out how and where we use our land and natural resources.

Not all responses will suit every location or community. How we respond will also need to take into account circumstances and time horizons in each location.

Rather than focusing on 'hard' solutions such as sea walls and built protection, central and local government are now focusing on trying to work with nature rather than against. This includes not building or developing in high risk areas, and finding ways to adapt to change.

