

Keep up to date with the latest news from Nelson City Council

'Remove Māori Ward laws that have embedded discrimination'

Discriminatory laws placing unreasonable hurdles to Māori participation in local government must be urgently reformed, says Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese.

In a meeting held on 22 September, Nelson City Council gave Mayor Reese their full support to write to central government urging amendments to the Local Electoral Act 2001 ensuring requirements for a Māori Ward are identical to a general Ward.

The resolution came alongside a decision to follow Iwi Council Partnership advice to not set up a Māori Ward now and pursue alternative mechanisms for increased Māori involvement in decision-making.

Currently, creating a Māori Ward can trigger a public ballot if demanded by five percent of electors.

"This system makes it hard for Māori to gain representation at Council. We must fix legislation that has embedded discrimination at local government for too long," says Mayor Reese.

"No other ward faces the same challenge. If North Nelson petitioned for a ward, Council would decide and that would be it. Yet Māori effectively have to ask permission for representation, and then face a public vote that amplifies racist, uninformed viewpoints."

Council is advocating for the removal of sections 19ZA to 19ZG from the Local Electoral Act and for Māori Ward decisions to align with decisions about other wards.



Nelson celebrates Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori - Māori Language Week ran from 14–20 September and Nelson City Council as a proud supporter, encouraged everyone in the community to give te reo a go.

During the week we shared videos of our Mayor Rachel Reese and a selection of councillors reciting their mihihi or pepeha on the Nelson City Council Facebook page.

[Haere mai ki Whakatū](#)

Last year, the "Welcome to Nelson" sign on SH6 in Atawhai was changed to "Haere mai ki Whakatū" for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori- Māori Language Week.

Since we received so much positive feedback from the community, we decided to reinstall it for Māori Language Week in 2020, and we added another sign at our southern border on Whakatū Drive.

[Light art projection of whakataukī \(proverbs\)](#)

The Nelson City Council's Clock Tower was transformed, to celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori.

Images of whakataukī (proverbs) were projected onto Civic House from 17–19 September at night time during the week.

Franklyn Street pedestrian refuge makes school walk safer

A new pedestrian refuge on the busy Franklyn Street by Nelson College is the latest addition in a suite of road safety measures introduced by Nelson City Council.

The refuge is part of Council's wider plans to improve road safety across the City which has included:

- Van Diemen Street kea crossing
- Footpath improvements including kerb build outs at crossing points
- Motueka Street pedestrian refuge
- Variable speed limits outside most schools
- Hampden Street West trial closure
- Tahunanui Pathway project

Transport safety advocate Clare Scott

[Te Reo educational art display](#)

Nelson City Council worked with MakeShift Spaces to create an educational art display for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori at Wakatū House ground floor, 28 Montgomery Square in Nelson.

The art on display was designed to teach the community how to pronounce the local street names and explain their meaning.

[Tohu Whenua video – Waimarama and Aratuna](#)

Inspired by last year's Tohu Whenua (sites and landmarks of significance) video series, we created a new video to celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori - Māori Language Week on the Nelson City Council Facebook page.

Check out the video to learn more about Waimarama and Kaituna, also known as Aratuna or Queens Gardens.

Our region and our Tohu Whenua are rich in history. Learn more about their stories, the meaning behind their names and how to pronounce them.

approached Council about the Franklyn Street refuge after seeing too many near misses on the street. Council agreed on the importance of reducing risk to public safety at this high traffic area on Franklyn Street.

Nelson City Councillor and Chair of Infrastructure Brian McGurk was pleased with the outcome and thanked the Nelson City Council's transport team for their efforts.

"Children should be able to ride or walk to school safely and this will make their journey a lot safer."



Look out for the Draft Nelson Plan

The Draft Whakamahere Whakatū Nelson Plan is coming, due for release on 6 October.



The Plan proposes some key changes to how we manage our natural and built environment in the future, so Nelson City Council wants to hear from you, the people of Nelson about what you think.

To find out more, look out for a condensed version of the Draft Nelson Plan in your mailbox from 7 October.

We'll also be holding public information sessions in Nelson, Stoke, Tahunanui, Atawhai and North Nelson over the next two months. Go to [shape.nelson.govt.nz](#) for session dates near you and to find out more information on the topics that interest you.

[shape.nelson.govt.nz](#)

Intensification Action Plan aims to assist growth

As more people seek to live in our Smart Little City, a new plan from Nelson City Council aims to help meet the demand for accommodation by supporting housing intensification in existing urban areas.

Nelson's Intensification Action Plan (IAP) was approved for inclusion in the draft Long Term Plan by Council on Thursday, 22 September.

The IAP was borne out of the Nelson Tasman Future Development Strategy (FDS), a 30-year framework for urban growth, adopted by both Nelson City and Tasman District Councils last year.

Mayor Rachel Reese said both documents were key to helping address Nelson's current housing shortfall, using existing urban areas and greenfield (growth) areas.

"House prices in Nelson and Tasman are some of the highest in the country, and we want to support those who already live here, as well as continue to attract and retain young people in our region. To do that, we need to plan how best to manage our housing needs, both now and into the future, and housing intensification has been identified as one of the ways to meet those needs."

The FDS anticipates at least 60% of Nelson's future housing growth will be accommodated by housing intensification in the Nelson Urban Area, which covers Nelson, Richmond and Hope.

The IAP looks at ways Council can encourage housing intensification of existing areas (brownfield) by ensuring processes and plans are streamlined. This is in recognition that intensification developments have a lower uptake than greenfield developments, although both play a role in meeting the city's future growth needs.

In addition to the IAP, Council has also approved a recommendation for a fund of \$50,000 to be considered as part of the draft Long Term Plan to subsidise regulatory charges faced by developers converting commercial property in the city centre to residential.

To read more about this story visit:

[our.nelson.govt.nz/IAP-aims-to-assist-growth](#)

ROAD CLOSURES

Applicant: Higgins

Event: This road closure is for Road Surface Maintenance.

Location: Market Road

Date and time of closure: Friday 6 November – Saturday 7 November 2020, 7am – 6pm

Wet weather date: Friday 13 November – Saturday 14 November 2020, 7am – 6pm

All vehicle access will be available when safe and directed from the contractor.

Applicant: Safe Traffic NZ Ltd

Event: This road closure is to allow for the construction of a new stormwater pipe under the road.

Location: Tosswill Road – from 32 Tosswill Road to 41 Tosswill Road

Date and time of closures: There will be two stages of work:

Stage One – Stormwater pipe

32 Tosswill Road to Tosswill Road/ Chamberlain Street Roundabout

Sunday 1 November 2020 – Friday 18 December 2020, 6am – 6pm

Stage Two – Stormwater pipe and inlet structure

Tosswill/Chamberlain Roundabout to 41 Tosswill Road

Monday 11 January 2021 – Thursday 11 February 2021, 6am – 6pm

The proposal is for no vehicle access through the work site during the above times, ordinary traffic will be detoured.

Access will be provided for residents outside of working hours and during the day when it is safe to do so, there may be delays.

Pedestrian traffic past the work site will be kept open during both stages of work, though there may be delays.

Applicant: Nelmac

Event: This road closure is for repairs to power poles and cabling

Location: Queens Road

Date and time of closure: Tuesday 27 October 2020 - Wednesday 28 October 2020, Closed between 8.30am – 4pm.

All vehicle access will be available when safe and directed from the contractor.

The road will be closed at Queens Road/ Victoria Street intersection and detours will be in place at the Russell Street end.

Feedback for proposed closures to be given by: Wednesday 14 October

Email: [enquiries@ncc.govt.nz](#)

Post: Nelson City Council, PO Box 645, Nelson 7040, Attention: Gillian Dancey

For all road closure information visit:

[nelson.govt.nz/road-closures](#)

Road resurfacing season starts in October

October signals the start of the summer roadworks programme in the Nelson/Tasman region.

This work is vital to ensure our roads stay in good condition, their surface is protected and they are as safe as possible for all road users.

Over the 2020/21 resurfacing season, which runs through to April, Council plans to resurface approximately 20 kilometres or 8% of local roads in our region.

Council increases its road resurfacing activity at this time of year as the warmer temperatures combined with longer daylight hours and dry air help the new seal stick to the road surface.

Whilst we do our best to minimise disruption to road users, it is inevitable that some delays will occur and motorists are urged to take this into account when planning journey times.

Most work will avoid the busy holiday travel periods but where traffic controls are in place, motorists are asked to always follow the speed limits and any instructions from road workers.

If resurfacing work is planned near your property, you will be notified by letter drop closer to the time of sealing. Where work is planned to occur on our busier roads, traffic management and advanced warning will accompany the work.

MEETINGS

The following meetings of the Nelson City Council have been scheduled.

Infrastructure Committee - to deliberate on submissions to Speed Limit Bylaw 2011 (210)
1.30pm 30 Sep

Infrastructure Committee
9am 1 Oct

Governance and Finance Committee
10am 15 Oct

Classification of Greenmeadows Hearings Panel - to deliberate on feedback
1.30pm 21 Oct

Environment Committee
10am 22 Oct

Forestry Advisory Group
9am 23 Oct

Council meeting
9am 27 Oct

Hearings Panel - Other
9am 28 Oct

Community Services Committee
10am 29 Oct

For a full list of Council meetings go to:

[nelson.govt.nz/meetings](#)

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