

OUR NELSON



TŌ TĀTOU WHAKATŪ



Issue 117 • 31 March 2021

Consultation open
until April 21.

Your wellbeing, Nelson's future – we want your feedback!



To find out more
look inside.

COVID-19 – Page 3



Debt vs. Rates – Page 4



Infrastructure – Page 6



Community Facilities and
Partnerships – Page 8



Housing Affordability and
Intensification – Page 10



Nelson City Centre – Page 10



Climate Change – Page 11



Environment – Page 11



Possible Concept

Delivering on our vision for Nelson as A Smart Little City, the new library will use innovation and clever design to deliver a climate change-resilient building, and a vibrant, functional place for the community to gather, learn, and enjoy. At their best, libraries offer people the chance to expand their horizons. They are a gateway to opportunity and a great equaliser for our community.

Welcome to this special edition of Our Nelson. Inside these pages you can read about the highlights and key issues within Nelson City Council's Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document.

Every three years we develop a Long Term Plan for our City. The Plan looks at the next 10-year period (with a more detailed focus on the first three years), and outlines what Council will be aiming to achieve, how much it will cost and how that activity will be paid for. Consultation helps us make sure we have considered the things that are important to you, and that you are aware of the impact Council's proposed activities will have on your rates.

We have identified eight key issues as priorities in the Plan, and all are vital to a society that puts your wellbeing first: Climate Change, COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Regeneration, Debt vs. Rates, Nelson City

Centre, Community Facilities and Partnerships, Housing Affordability and Intensification, the Environment, and Infrastructure.

The Consultation Document explains the impact these issues will have and what we are proposing to do about them. We then ask for your feedback. Whether you agree, disagree or have an alternative suggestion, we really want to hear your views.



To read the full consultation document visit:
shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031





Mayor's Foreword

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

With your basket and my basket, we will sustain everyone

We live in an extraordinary location, a Smart Little City that celebrates the contributions of a resilient, creative, and diverse community. However, the last few years have brought a range of challenges that have tested our mental and physical health; cyclones, forest fires, and COVID-19. Each has impacted Nelson's social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing and changed the lives of many.

That is why we have chosen to focus on wellbeing when developing our Plan for the next 10 years. Your wellbeing is a factor that runs through all of the proposals that you will read about in the pages ahead.

The Long Term Plan highlights Council's commitment to building effective, lasting and genuine partnerships with all eight Te Tau Ihu iwi at both operational and governance levels. It's important that we continue on this journey to achieve a partnership of strength that will benefit our entire community.

We want to be a good partner to the many organisations we work alongside and support. We must also be guided by the concept of Tūpuna Pono (being good ancestors) and have tomorrow in mind when we decide how to act today.

The Plan sets out a vision for our City and where we want to be in 10 years. We have listened to the feedback you have given us through previous Annual Plans and pre-engagement and have tried to include the things you have told us are important to you in this plan. However, we also

need to consider rates affordability and debt levels, so some of the things you have asked for have not been possible to include or are occurring in later years.

The consistent messages we have heard include; providing support to alleviate the housing crisis, taking proactive action on climate change, providing improved facilities, and continuing our work to ensure our core infrastructure is resilient and meets growing demand. You asked us to revitalise our City Centre, care for our environment and encourage employment in our region in the wake of COVID-19.

Within this Plan, there are options for you to consider and questions about what you value, but some of the work is not optional. We can't choose to ignore the impact of climate change, or the housing crisis. We can't let our infrastructure deteriorate or fail to account for growth.

A crucial question is how we fund all this work.

You can read more about our proposed rates package on page 4. If we accept we need to invest in the future of our Smart Little City, then we need to find a balance between the debt inherited by future generations and keeping rates affordable.

I look forward to reading your submissions.

Ngā mihi nui

Rachel Reese
Mayor of Nelson: Te Koromatua o Whakatū



Partnership with iwi and Māori

He Waka Hourua

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.

What is the most important thing in this world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

Council is committed to strengthening genuine partnerships with all eight iwi of Te Tau Ihu and supporting Māori to participate in local government.

Valuing and nurturing these relationships enriches the whole community and builds Nelson's cultural wellbeing. In order to do this, we will focus on regularly holding iwi-Council hui at both governance and management levels.

We plan to increase iwi/Māori representation across Council's governance structure and have made a submission of support for the government's Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act, which will remove the hurdles associated with establishing Māori wards within local authorities.

We'll also work to promote te reo Māori me ōna tikanga within the Whakatū Nelson community, supporting events and activities like Te Huihui-o-Matariki - Matariki Festival, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week), and hosting the Te Matatini National Kapa Haka Festival in 2026 (pending the successful hosting of two major competitions leading up to Te Matatini). Engaging in this work will also provide opportunities for Council to build its cultural competency.



COVID-19 and Economic Recovery and Regeneration



While Nelson experienced relatively few COVID-19 infections, the social and economic consequences of the virus have been, and continue to be, considerable. Council is committed to supporting recovery and regeneration in Nelson, and this is reflected throughout the Long Term Plan.

The local response to COVID-19

In 2020/21, Nelson City and Tasman District Councils increased funding to the Nelson Regional Development Agency from \$1.2 million to \$1.66m to support Project Kōkiri, our region's collaborative economic recovery plan. This funding supported local businesses through the initial COVID-19 response. Funding also helped the tourism sector shift towards a domestic market with the 'We've Got This' campaign.

While being mindful of the need to save where it can, Council has proposed an increase to our capital works programme over the next 10 years of \$169m. These capital projects are designed to deliver multiple benefits to the community, including employment opportunities. Council has

also streamlined procurement to allow faster approval of tenders to keep money circulating in the economy. The Jobs for Nature projects are also providing employment and training opportunities for those who may have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

Regeneration of our economy

Project Kōkiri 2.0 is the next phase of our economic recovery and involves working with business and the community to determine how we have a more regenerative, resilient and productive economy. COVID-19 has demonstrated that an economy's resilience is critical to how well it can respond to disruption.

Project Kōkiri 2.0 will develop an Economic Development Strategy that will set the overall direction of regeneration for our economy and include a range of initiatives to improve our region's overall wellbeing.

Key Issue

Q. COVID-19 will have an ongoing impact on our region and provides an opportunity to think differently about how Council invests in economic development and supports wellbeing. Would you support a new allocation of \$350,000 per year over the next three years for Project Kōkiri 2.0? What areas are most important to ensure the regeneration of our Nelson region?



Science and Technology Precinct:

Port Nelson, in collaboration with the Cawthron Institute, is looking to develop a Science and Technology Precinct on a piece of land bordered by Wildman Ave and Vickerman Street alongside State Highway 6.

The Precinct will further augment Nelson's leading position as a location for companies working in the ocean economy and aquaculture space. The involvement of Nelson's renowned Cawthron Institute will blaze a trail for a range of national and international tenants.

With a growing appetite for new ways to work, there has been increased interest from technology companies that are considering relocating to Nelson. It will be attractive to companies working to provide solutions to some of our regions' most pressing challenges in science and research, information technology, software development, health, agritech and aquatech.

The attraction of new-high value companies and their staff to Nelson will generate sustainable economic value for the region, and supports our desire to be a City that provides modern, smart opportunities to live, work and play.

Council is proposing to support the development of the Precinct up to a total value of \$5 million. \$1.5m has been committed in the current year for project initiation, with \$3.5m proposed in the Long Term Plan.

Have your say!

Q. Do you agree with Council's support for the new Science and Technology Precinct and the funding that has been allocated?



Balancing the Budget

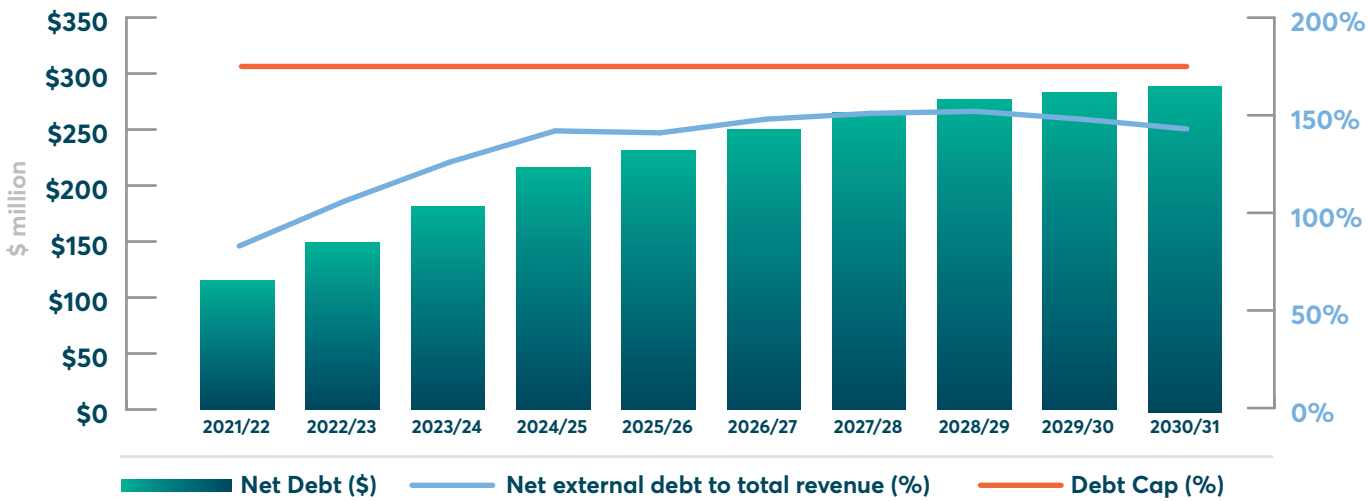
Te taha pūtea

What has shaped our thinking around debt vs. rates?

In order for Council to achieve everything that you’ve told us is important to you over the next 10 years, meet your aspirations for Nelson’s progress, and provide core services, Council will have to increase the revenue it generates. User charges apply for some services, but most of our revenue comes from rates.



Annual Debt versus Debt Cap (\$ million)



In setting its budgets Council considers:

- What it must do, for example because it is required by legislation
- What it has to do, for example finishing projects it has already started
- What it should do, because to not act will create problems in the future.

How much we need to increase rates by each year depends on several factors:

- How much the cost of providing services has increased
- What the community wants us to achieve, and how much this costs
- How much money we should borrow and pay back later
- The changing value of our assets and how much we need to save annually to replace them in future (known as depreciation)
- Government legislation, regulations and standards.

Three significant factors have impacted the budgets Council has developed for the Long Term Plan:

COVID-19 recovery: The significant and ongoing impact of the pandemic, including the impact of setting the net rates increase to 0% in 2020/21, and Council’s role in supporting Nelson’s recovery and regeneration.

Revaluation: At 30 June 2020, Council had a large revaluation of its Three Waters assets which would have, if no balancing action had been taken, driven an extra 3% of rating increase in 2021/22.

Capital expenditure: The proposed capital expenditure in this Long Term Plan (the money we require to build and upgrade physical assets such as infrastructure and community assets) has increased by \$169 million compared to the previous Long Term Plan.

It is proposed to increase the rates cap from LGCI plus 2% (our current cap) to LGCI plus 2.5%. LGCI is the Local Government Cost Index. This is used rather than the Consumer Price Index as it better reflects the realities of higher local government costs. The debt to revenue ratio cap would also

move from 150% to 175%. Council expects rates rises to be between 5.0% and 5.7% per year over the 10 years of the Long Term Plan.

In order to keep debt at lower levels than it would otherwise be at 2030/31, and comfortably under the debt to revenue ratio of 175% (which will peak at 152% in 2028/29), it is proposed to set annual rates increases at the new rates cap of LGCI + 2.5%, except for 2021/22. In 2021/22 the overall rates increase is proposed to be 5.7% (vs 6.2%, which it would be at LGCI +2.5%).

What this results in, is borrowing from the Emergency Fund from 2021/22 to 2025/26 to keep the rates increases smooth and lower than they otherwise would be. From 2026/27 to 2030/31, Council will repay the Emergency Fund, which will come back into funds in 2028/29, by having higher rates increases than they otherwise would be (and higher operating surpluses). This provides more stability for ratepayers, while also giving Council the income it needs to fund the services you have told us are important to you.



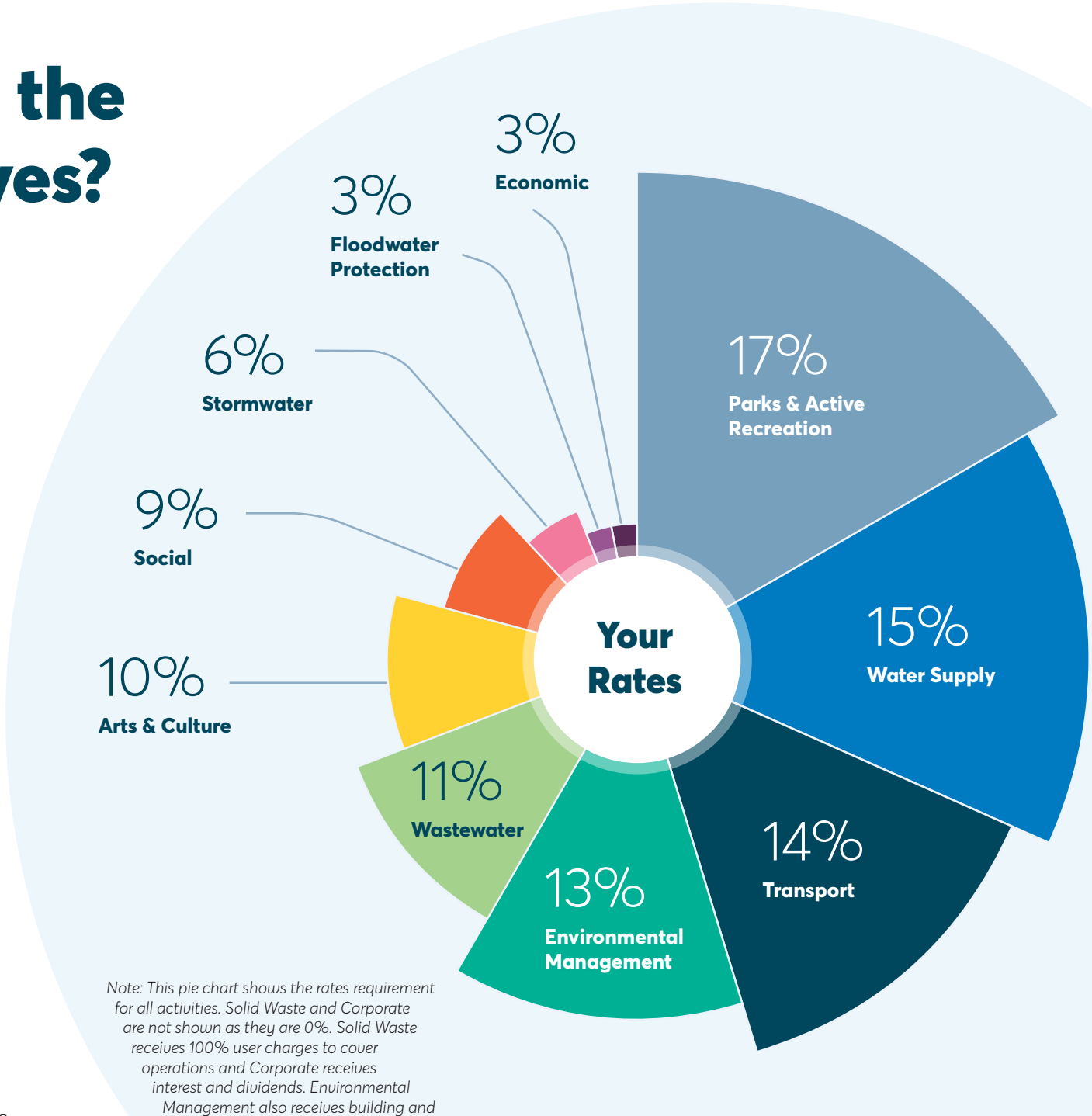
What are the alternatives?

Do not use the Emergency Fund to smooth rates increases and reduce debt

The alternative is not to use the Emergency Fund to smooth rate increases and reduce debt. This would result in rates increases for the first three years of 7.4%, 5.4% and 4.4% respectively, and an average of 3.5% for the remaining seven years. Net debt at the end of the 10 years would be higher at \$315.9 million.

Significantly reduce our work programme

This could mean that less infrastructure is built and renewed. We would have to drop many of the initiatives we are talking about in this document, which would reduce the level of economic stimulus Council is able to contribute to the region through its projects. Council has considered its work programme through a COVID-19 recovery lens, and believes it has achieved a balance which will help support the community.



Key Issue

Q. Balancing debt vs. rates is a key component of this 10 year plan. Do you support the balance we have struck between increasing rates and taking on debt? Or do you prefer one of the alternatives?

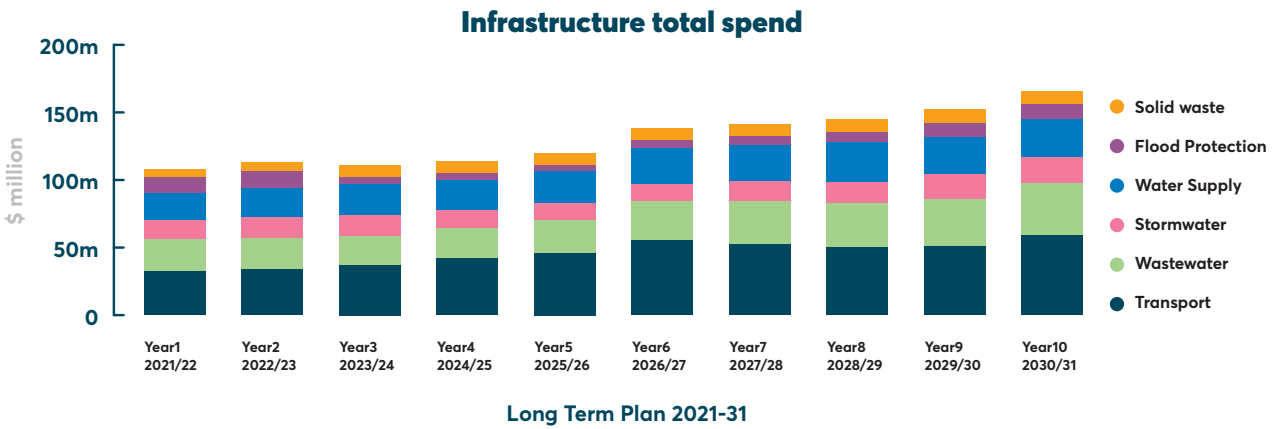


Infrastructure Projects

Continuing significant levels of investment in Nelson's core infrastructure is of fundamental importance to Council. Despite being largely unseen, our infrastructure provides the foundation for our City to thrive.



The Long Term Plan proposes to invest \$491 million in transport, water supply, wastewater, solid waste, stormwater and flood protection projects over the life of this Long Term Plan. This equates to 73% of Council's total capital programme. In addition, approximately 49% of Council's operational expenditure is allocated to these services.



You can view a copy of the full Infrastructure Strategy online at shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031, or at our Customer Service Centre and public libraries.

Council is planning to prioritise these key projects.

Saxton Creek Upgrade – Stage 4

This is the last stage of a multi-million dollar investment in upgrading Saxton Creek from Champion Road to the sea.

A total of \$20m has been budgeted for Stage 4, funded in part by central government through a grant of \$7.5m from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

Maitai Flood Mitigation

This project seeks to provide safe, affordable and sustainable flood management for the City Centre. Community engagement is planned for the next three years, to raise awareness of current and future flood risk, and align flood mitigation options with community priorities. \$830,000 has been budgeted for these investigations and the development of designs.

A further \$9.8 million has been allocated as a placeholder in 2024/25 – 2030/31 for implementation of options that reduce flood risk within the floodplain, including areas potentially susceptible to coastal inundation.

Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant (NWWTP) Resource Consent

The current resource consent expires in December 2024, and work commenced in 2019 to prepare for its renewal. The proposal is to ensure that the existing facility will continue to operate in its existing location until its long term future is decided.

Atawhai Rising Main Renewal

Planning work will commence slightly earlier than originally proposed for the renewal of this key lifeline asset, that conveys half the City's wastewater from Neale Park Pump Station to the Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant. The renewal of this key asset will be split into three stages, with the first stage being undertaken in the next

10 years with a budget of \$23 million. This work is based on an assumption that Nelson's wastewater treatment plant will continue to be located north of Atawhai.

Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit (NRSBU)

Priorities for the NRSBU include the commitment to measure and reduce gas emissions, increased capital expenditure over the next 10 years for infrastructure renewals, pipeline upgrades to accommodate future growth and pond desludging and increased operational expenditure to cater for maintenance contract costs.

Total capital expenditure for the next 10 years is \$58.4m (uninflated) and operating costs are approximately \$10.5m per annum.

Water Supply and Wastewater Renewals

A large portion of Nelson's water supply and wastewater network was installed between 1950 and 1970. Over the next three decades a large



portion of this network will be due for renewal. To manage this workload Council has budgeted in the order of \$20m for water supply pipeline renewals and \$20m for wastewater pipeline renewals in this Long Term Plan.

Increasing capacity for growth

The Future Development Strategy has identified parts of the central city as areas which will need additional capacity over the first 10 years of the Infrastructure Strategy. As capacity increases so too will demand for services and infrastructure.

National Transport Funding: Priorities and Challenges

Nelson works in close partnership with Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency) to deliver positive outcomes for the region.

Waka Kotahi assists Council by way of a subsidy, called the Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) to fund aspects of our transport programme work. For Nelson this FAR is 51% and includes assistance for maintenance and operations of existing assets (such as footpaths, roads, streetlights and traffic signals) as well as assistance for new projects (such as roads and footpaths) and programme improvements such as public transport.

Waka Kotahi 100% funds all state highway networks. Funding for the ongoing routine

operations and maintenance of our City's roading network has been included in the Regional Land Transport Plan and Long Term Plan.

Sustainable Transport

Transport is the second biggest carbon emitter in New Zealand, behind agriculture. In light of this, Council is adopting sustainability and climate change targets consistent with central government's stated priorities.

Council is encouraging the community to transition to more sustainable modes - choosing active transport, including walking, cycling, and public transport more often for their journeys. A

reduction in car use will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to improved traffic flows and has the potential to reduce the need for investment in major road upgrades.

Nelson Future Access Project (NFA)

The NFA is led by central government through Waka Kotahi, working with Council and local iwi.

The NFA will help us plan a transport system that is fundamental to shaping our City and providing vital access for people, goods and services to key hubs (including our Airport and Port) that are essential to our wellbeing and economic success.

Waka Kotahi has advised that the NFA project (including the Rocks Rd walking and cycling facility) is running significantly behind time and that no decisions on packages of activities have been made yet. This means that Council has been unable to place any specific work related to this project in the Long Term Plan other than general placeholders for the NFA project over the next 10 years. Placeholder funding of \$30.2m over 10 years has been provided in this Long Term Plan, which includes an amount of \$15.4m from a Waka Kotahi subsidy, based on a 51% FAR. It will be unaffordable for Nelson to undertake this work without significant Waka Kotahi funding support.

You can find all of the detail regarding the Nelson Future Access Project at nelson.govt.nz/projects/infrastructure/nelson-future-access-project/

Key Issue

Q. We have increased our spending on wastewater, water supply and stormwater projects to ensure our infrastructure remains fit for purpose and cope with the projected growth. Are you satisfied with the proposed level of investment or would you prefer alternative options that have a reduced spend?

Alternative options available at shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031

Community Facilities and Partnerships



Annual Elma Turner Library visits:
300,000 +

Library Precinct Redevelopment

Council is planning to redevelop the Elma Turner Library

This significant project would revitalise and open up the Maitai River Precinct and provide a modern library space for the whole community to use.

At their best, libraries offer people the chance to expand their horizons. They are a gateway to opportunity and a great equaliser for our community.

Our proposal is to build an expanded, climate-change resilient library on the corner of Halifax Street and Trafalgar Street.

Four other options are detailed below. However, not all options deliver outcomes desired by our community.

Benefits of preferred option:

- The existing library stays open during conservation
- A new entrance to the Maitai walkway
- A new, attractive, public open space between the library and the Maitai/Mahitahi River

Why do we need a new library?

Elma Turner Library has served us well but it is no longer suitable for the use it receives, and the expanding role libraries play in our community. The library receives more than 300,000 visitors each year.

A new, modern library would better serve the changing needs of our community. The facility would provide more space to deliver the full range of activities and programmes a library should have, more spaces for individuals and community groups to book, and make a better connection to the natural environment.

Collaborating with Wakatū Incorporation

We are proposing to collaborate with Wakatū Incorporation to revitalise the Maitai River Precinct, including the library project. The mouth of the Mahitahi, along with Matangi Awhio (Auckland Point), was an important site for waka landing, settlement and mahinga kai. Wakatū Incorporation owns most of the land in the Maitai River Precinct, including the proposed location of the new library. Council shares Wakatū Incorporation's vision for the site: to link the River to the heart of Nelson City, and for the adjacent land to be a focal point for the community.

We propose to carry out a land swap with Wakatū Incorporation, so that once the new library is complete, it takes ownership of the current library site, and Council takes ownership of the new library in its new location.

Budget and Timeline

We propose a provision of \$46.3 million (\$44.4m uninflated) for a new library precinct, which includes an appropriate contingency budget. This development would be funded through borrowing, with the cost spread over 65 years – as it will benefit Nelsonians for years to come. Design work is proposed to start in the 2021/22 financial year, with the aim of lodging the necessary consents in 2022/23 and commencing construction in 2023/24.

A new library is expected to result in greater usage and an increase in operational costs of \$51,000 in 2022/23, increasing to \$136,000 per year by 2026/27. It is expected there will be annual energy savings of at least 30% but potentially as high as 70% compared to a non-Green Star build.

Riverside Precinct Flooding Risk

Any new building in the Maitai River Precinct would be built to exceed the current standard in relation to minimum ground levels for 2130, taking into account RCP 8.5 climate scenarios. The new proposed library building will therefore have a floor level approximately 1.2 metres higher than the existing library. Furthermore, the proposed new library building will have the potential to raise the floor level in the future if required, to be almost 2 metres higher than the existing library floor level. This would extend the flood protection for the building to 2160-2200 assuming the RCP 8.5 climate scenario.

Option One: Construct a new library on the corner of Halifax Street and Trafalgar Street (Council's preferred option)

New, modern library (3,250m²) within the Maitai River Precinct that would also act as a gateway from the central city to the River. Construction to high environmental standards, for a modern, low-carbon, climate resilient library. Excellent urban design outcomes, with significant landscaping and plaza connection to enhance the library's links to the River. Very little disruption to library services.

Disadvantages: estimated cost, slightly smaller footprint compared to option four, some additional time delays to complete land exchange negotiations with Wakatū Incorporation.

Cost	Impact on rates
Our provision for this option is \$46.3 million (funded through borrowing, with cost spread over 65 years).	\$2.1 million p.a. (total increase in rates of 2.5%)

Option Two: Refurbish the existing library building

Replacing existing roof and changing and refreshing internal layout of library to make better use of existing space (2,450m²). Refurbishment would extend the life of the library for 20-30 years. This is the lowest cost option.

Disadvantages: limited improvements to physical environment and no contribution to cohesive Riverside Precinct. It would not provide much more additional space for wider range of services and programmes the community has asked for. Significant disruption to library services while work carried out.

Cost	Impact on rates
The estimated cost for this option is \$21.3 million	\$1.4 million p.a. (total increase in rates of 1.6%)

Option Three: Construct a new, reduced-specification library on the current site

Replacing the library with a larger (3,150m²) modern building. This costs less than Option One, doesn't require new land to be purchased, retains riverside location and provides medium-term flexibility on location.

Disadvantages: Some of the sustainability, design, fit-out and landscaping asked for by community not included to keep budget down. Limited environmental benefits and impact on development of a cohesive Riverside Precinct. Significant disruption to library services during build.

Cost	Impact on rates
The estimated cost for this option is \$33.6 million.	\$1.7 million p.a. (total increase in rates of 2.1%)

Option Four: Construct a new, high-specification library on the current site

Replacing the library with a larger (3,400m²) modern building. This does not require new land purchase, retains riverside location and construction would be to high environmental standards. We would end up with a modern, low-carbon, climate resilient library. Also likely to be quickest of the new-build options.

Disadvantages: some good urban design outcomes, but would impact development of a cohesive Riverside Precinct and wouldn't provide an integrated entranceway from central city to the Maitai/Mahitahi River. Significant disruption to library services during build.

Cost	Impact on rates
The estimated cost for this option is \$45.2 million.	\$2.1 million p.a. (total increase in rates of 2.5%)

Option Five: Construct a new library somewhere else in the City

Would mean losing the connection between the library and the River. We have consistently heard a preference for the Maitai River Precinct as the preferred location for the library, but have retained this option in case a decision cannot be reached on one of the above options.

Disadvantages: significant delay to start of the project while a suitable site is found. Not building a high-quality gateway building on the River could discourage other significant investment in this area. Other disadvantages include, drawing foot traffic away from the river end of Trafalgar Street, cost of the land purchase and unknown construction risks.

Cost and impact on rates

This option is not fully costed, as land purchase, design and construction costs all depend on the exact location.



Cemeteries

Council projects Nelson will run out of burial space within 10 – 20 years. We can develop a regional cemetery with Tasman District Council in the Moutere or Wakefield, or find suitable space within Nelson, most likely north of our city.

Have Your Say!

Q. What is your preference? Build a new regional cemetery with Tasman District Council or find space within Nelson?



Sea Sports Building

Sea sports at the Nelson Marina include a range of popular activities such as Scouts, Cadets, canoeing, surf skis, rowing, waka ama and kayaking. However there is no adequate building to either store equipment or to be a base for activities.

The proposed building is expected to cost \$8.3 million (80% from Council, funded from the Marina Account, 20% contributions from user groups). There will be no impact on rates as the Marina account is a closed account.

The other two upgrade options considered were both to carry out basic improvements on the existing buildings, which would mean less cost but not meet the identified user needs. Users of the facility would be expected to contribute 20% for both these options and neither of the options will have an impact on rates as both will be funded from the Marina Account. Option two would see the existing buildings upgraded and owned by the users, with Council adding on facilities at an approximate cost of \$3.2m. Council's initial outlay for option two would be

Key Issue

Q. We've set out why Council believes we need to redevelop the library. Do you support the redevelopment? Why or why not?

Council's preferred option is a redevelopment on the corner of Halifax and Trafalgar streets with a public plaza down to the river. What do you think works about Council's proposal and what doesn't? If you prefer a different option please let us know your reasons.



\$2.6m debt funded, with interest of approximately \$72,000 per year. Option three would have Council owning and carrying out all the work on existing buildings at an approximate cost of \$5.6m. Council's initial outlay would be \$4.5m debt funded with interest of approximately \$122,000 per year.

Have Your Say!

Q. Do you agree with Council's proposed approach of funding 80% of the construction cost of the Sea Sports building from the Marina account to construct a purpose-built, multi-user facility?



Housing Affordability and Intensification

A lack of affordable housing is one of the most significant challenges facing the Nelson region. Our housing market is consistently one of the least affordable in the country.



Council's work includes:

Partnering with central government

Council is working in partnership with Kāinga Ora; the government's primary housing and urban development delivery arm with two key roles, firstly to be its own public housing landlord, and secondly, to partner with the development community, including local government, on urban development projects.

Council's Housing Reserve

Council divested its community housing to Kāinga Ora and has created a \$12 million Housing Reserve from the proceeds. The Reserve will be used to work with and support partners who can deliver social and affordable housing solutions. We expect decisions on the fund to support housing development during 2021.

Intensification

Enabling housing intensification is a focus for Council in this Long Term Plan.

Intensification of housing along or close to our main transport corridors has many benefits, including supporting our sustainable transport and carbon reduction objectives

Over the next 10 years we will concentrate our proactive infrastructure upgrade activity in Washington Valley and the wider Nelson City area, and be responsive to city-wide intensification demands. As well as preparing for intensification, upgrading the infrastructure in these areas has additional benefits such as replacing ageing infrastructure, increasing stormwater capacity, reducing the risk of wastewater overflows, and improving water supply flows and pressures. This activity is budgeted to cost \$23m.

Council will also be considering methods of making some of its own landholdings available for intensification projects and mixed-use developments.

Key Issue

Q. Housing in Nelson is some of the least affordable in the country. Do you agree with Council's proposal to focus on affordable housing and intensification or would you prefer that Council simply met the legislative requirements in this area and did not devote resource to innovative partnership approaches and leveraging funding?



Nelson City Centre

How will Nelson's City Centre evolve over the next 30 years, providing for our social, economic, and cultural needs?

Underlying all experiences in our City Centre is one factor - people. People walking, shopping, enjoying an outdoor café, chatting to friends on a bench under a street tree canopy, make the City Centre come alive. An urban park is proposed to draw more people into the City Centre.

The transformation of our City Centre will be guided by a Spatial Plan that will define the changes needed to make sure our City Centre meets everyone's needs, now and in the future. The plan will create a people-focused vision for the City Centre that attracts investment, residents, talent, business, families, and events - the foundations of A Smart Little City.

The most vital aspect of this project is to understand what you want from your City Centre and where you think the opportunities for improvement are. As part of the Spatial Plan engagement process, Council will hold a variety of sessions with the Nelson community.

When complete, the Spatial Plan will present a direction that also incorporates climate emissions reduction, adaption and resilience, high quality developments which embrace intensification, transport modal shift, iwi partnership, Nelson's arts culture, and our locally celebrated hospitality and retail sectors.

Trial projects for the Streets for People programme will continue from 2021/22 to 2023/24, to investigate ideas for spatial development and determine what works for the community. From 2024/25 to 2026/27 we will begin implementing more permanent solutions.

Climate Change

In Nelson, projected changes to our climate will impact our economy, infrastructure, natural environment, lifestyles and future.



Responding to climate change is central to the Te Taihū Intergenerational Strategy’s vision of being good ancestors, as the greatest challenges will be faced by our tamariki.

We see many opportunities in our climate change response. It allows us to restore local biodiversity, build sustainable urban environments, take better care of our soil and water, promote healthy lifestyle choices, support mental health and improve wellbeing by creating connected communities within a more liveable City.

Data compiled by New Zealand’s Climate Change Commission shows we are already experiencing the effects of climate change and that past emissions have locked in further change. Limiting warming to 1.5°C will require rapid reductions in greenhouse gasses between now and 2030, then slower reductions until the end of the century.

Other highlights from the Consultation Document include an electric first policy for replacing/adding cars to our fleet, \$3.5 million toward improving shared walk/cycle paths, an urban greening plan that will see more CO2 absorbing trees in our City Centre and to reduce consumption and waste, there is \$13.3 million (fully funded from the fees paid at the refuse centre) towards collection of kitchen waste at the kerbside for composting, if a current trial is successful.

To reduce consumption and waste, our Plan allocates \$13.3 million (fully funded from the fees paid at the refuse centre) towards collection of kitchen waste at the kerbside for composting if a current trial is successful.

Council’s entire work programme is viewed by a climate change lens. Actions and choices that support our climate change response are woven into all our activities.

Key Issue

Q. There has been a strong community voice over many years asking Council to be proactive and show leadership on the issue of climate change. This is Council’s preferred option. Do you think we should be more cautious and wait to see what Government direction and funding is planned or should we be proactive and move ahead with investments in a range of mitigation, adaptation, resilience, leadership and innovation actions?

The Environment

Nelson’s natural environment is treasured by residents and visitors alike.

A healthy environment is essential to our health and wellbeing and we all have a duty to care for it. The challenge of climate change has made this work all the more important.

The proposed budgets vary from year to year, but in 2021/22 we propose to invest \$18.2 million in environmental activity, with a particular focus on freshwater management and monitoring required by the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, biodiversity management, responding to biosecurity threats and data management and reporting. This budget for environmental activity is proposed to increase to \$20.4m per year (including inflation) by 2031.



Project Mahitahi

Project Mahitahi is co-designed and co-governed by Council and iwi and aims to restore the ecosystem of the Maitai/Mahitahi Valley. Work on two hectares of wetland ecosystems will include widespread pest plant control, establishing a trapping network to protect native fauna, and plant at least 125,000 native trees. Government funding of \$3.7m will provide over 50 local jobs over the next five years.

Pest Plant Control on Council Reserves

Council’s Landscape Reserves are at risk from invasive pest plants, and many people submitted to our Regional Pest Management Plan on the importance of getting these under control.

Ecological Restoration Plans identify an intensive pest plant ‘knockdown’ period is needed to allow for the protection and regeneration of vegetation in the reserves and halt the loss of existing biodiversity areas.

Controlling pest plants prevents them from smothering old growth trees and destroying canopy cover. A healthy canopy also slows the rate at which the rain hits the ground, which can help our waterways respond to extreme rainfall events.


Pest plant control also reduces the spread of pest plants to neighbouring land and the impact on new plantings. Supporting the growth of forest by planting new trees, protecting the trees we have, and allowing for forest regeneration is an important part of Council’s actions to help mitigate climate change.

This financial commitment also has the potential to generate local jobs for our community. The proposed increase in service levels will result in some new jobs immediately, increasing as the budget increases.

Key Issue

Q. We expect the investment in pest plant control to make a real difference. How much of a priority is protecting biodiversity through pest plant management to you? Do you support this major investment, or would you prefer that we progress this project more slowly with a saving of \$5.7 million on debt but a significantly reduced outcome for biodiversity protection?

Council is also seeking your views on the following:

- A new company model for Nelson Airport and Port Nelson – these important assets, are proposed to transfer into a single new company which will be 50% owned by Nelson City Council and 50% by Tasman District Council.
 - Financial Strategy – shows how Council will ensure the level of rates and borrowing are financially sustainable.
 - Development contributions - these ensure those who create a need for new or additional assets such as stormwater and other infrastructure meet the costs of providing these assets. Council is looking to incentivise inner-city living and proposes changes to waivers for development contributions to assist this outcome.
 - York Valley Landfill fees and charges are proposed to increase by 20% to address increased capital expenditure to undertake works at the landfill, including gas management improvements to reduce carbon emissions, improvements to address stormwater control, increases to government's Waste Minimisation Levy and NZ Emissions Trading Scheme costs, and funding for waste minimisation activities by the two councils.
 - Fees and charges relating to environmental health, food services, building services and resource management activities – are proposed to increase to meet Council's obligations as a regulatory authority and recover the costs of services provided. These fees and charges are met by those that directly benefit rather than the general ratepayer having to meet these increased costs.
 - Rates remission policy – a number of changes are proposed reduce administrative burdens and provide consistency for ratepayers.
-  More information can be found at shape.nelson.govt.nz



Have your say!

Submission Form — Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031

Name:

Organisation represented: (if applicable)

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Do you wish to speak at the hearing?

Yes / No

If you do not circle either, we will assume you do not wish to be heard. If you wish to present your submission at the hearing in Te Reo Māori or New Zealand sign language please include this information in your submission.

Public Information: All submissions (including the names and contact details of submitters) are public information and will be available to the public and media in various reports and formats including on the Nelson City Council website. Personal information will also be used for administration relating to the subject matter of submissions. Submitters have the right to access and correct any personal information included in any reports, information or submissions.

Comments:

Submissions can be made:



Online at shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031



**By dropping off to Civic House,
110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson**



By post to Long Term Plan 2021-2031
PO Box 645, Nelson 7010



Email to submissions@ncc.govt.nz

Please attach additional sheets if needed.

We want to hear from you.

Consultation documents are available from:

- Our Customer Service Centre at the corner of Trafalgar and Halifax Streets
- The public libraries in Nelson, Tahunanui and Stoke
- Online at **shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031**

Please look through what we propose, consider your priorities, and let us know what you think. You can write a submission on the below form or online at **shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031**.

Consultation closes at midnight April 21.

More information



Online – Supporting information is available on our website at **shape.nelson.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2021-2031**



Talk to a person – Call us on **546 0200**
to answer your questions or send you
more information



Social Media – Join the conversation
at **facebook.com/nelsoncitycouncil**