



New Chief Executive welcomed

Nelson City Council staff, elected members, iwi representatives, and others gathered at a mihi whakatau on Monday (3 April) to welcome Council's new Chief Executive, Nigel Philpott, to the organisation he will lead for a term of five years.

Together with Council staff and kaumātua, elected members and iwi representatives, Mayor Nick Smith offered a warm welcome to the new Chief Executive.

He reiterated that together with Nigel, it was important for them to build a family culture across Nelson City Council, one that not only does the best it can for its residents and ratepayers but also for its team and the families that support them. Mayor Nick expressed confidence in the new Chief Executive's people and human resource skills and his ability to lead a high performing team.

Nigel comes to us from the Primary ITO where he most recently served as Chief Executive. He has had an extensive career with the Royal Navy in the UK and the Royal New Zealand Navy, and roles in the Ministry of Social Development, and Ministry of Education. Nigel holds a BA in Economic and Political Geography, a Master's in Strategic Studies and a Master's in Human Resources.

Nelson City Council wish to thank Interim-Chief Executive Lindsay McKenzie for leading the organisation over the past few months.



From left to right: Andrew Board, Rod Dixon, Lorraine Moller, Nick Smith, Lester Binns and Barbara Bowen.

Mayor part of Nelson quartet to run in the New York City Marathon

Forty years after he won the New York City Marathon, Nelson-born runner Rod Dixon is back in his hometown with fellow running legend Lorraine Moller to help four Nelsonians, including Mayor Nick Smith, prepare for the largest marathon in the world.

In turn, Mayor Nick, along with Tāhunanui School Principal Barbara Bowen, Saint Paul's Catholic School Board Chair Lester Binns and Top South Media Managing Director Andrew Board aim to raise funds for Rod Dixon's KiDSMARATHON, for the delivery of the programme in Nelson-Tasman schools.

Long-closed section of Coppermine Trail reopening

The pipeline section of the Coppermine Trail between the Maitai Dam and Smith's Ford will reopen Saturday 15 April.

This section of the trail has been closed on and off for several years due to slips, forestry harvesting, and, most recently, the 2022 August severe weather.

The most recent work carried out on the trail held up extremely well during the weather event, which means we are able to reopen with confidence. Ongoing monitoring will still continue following high rainfall events but will not require a standard closure period as we have had in place in the past.

The track was reopened following the installation of a 2.8 tonne recreational bridge by Wenham Contracting. The bridge was airlifted in with a Blackhawk helicopter and installed next to the repaired Maitai Raw Water pipeline. This bridge allows the entire track to open.

Over 5000 riders used the Coppermine Trail last year. A 42km loop from Nelson city, it's considered one of New Zealand's Great Rides

Please note, there is still a risk of ongoing rock fall at the original slip site. Trail users are advised not to stop at this section of the trail. Signage is in place.

New technology to reduce forestry debris to be used during Marsden Valley harvest

Nelson City Council's contractor, PF Olsen, has begun preparation work for the upcoming forestry harvest in the Marsden Valley, with plans to use a new felling machine that will reduce the amount of forestry debris left behind.

The Timberpro TL 775D allows for greater control of trees as they are cut down. Traditional felling heads can only control the direction of a tree's fall. This results in trees falling to the ground at a high speed, usually causing a portion of the tree to break off. These broken portions are left behind as debris, or slash, that later needs to be cleared.

With the new machine, trees are cut, lifted, and slowly lowered to the ground. At this slower speed, trees aren't at risk of breaking when they fall, which makes for a much cleaner harvest with less slash left behind. Group Manager Infrastructure Alec Louverdis says the new machine will assist Council in fulfilling its commitment to responsible forestry.

"Reducing the amount of slash created by the harvest is important for us as responsible custodians of this land. While Council looks into the future of forestry in Nelson through its Right Tree, Right Place Taskforce, it's vital that we continue to reduce the impact of forestry on our environment."

Harvesting is expected to begin mid-May and will be conducted in phases:

The first phase begins this week, with crews building access roads in the reserve and undertaking maintenance work on Glider Road to ensure it is suitable for logging trucks. They will also be removing slash from the previous harvest at this time.

The Barnicoat Walkway will remain open (weekdays and weekends) to the public during most of this work, although occasional closures may be necessary. Glider Road will also remain open at weekends; however, it will be closed during the week from Friday 14 April for logging truck access.

When closed, the road will be blocked, and signs will be in place. Please respect this closure, for your safety and the safety of truck drivers.

Starting mid-May, crews will do an initial month-long bout of work in the Marsden Valley Reserve while they finish constructing the new forestry roads.

They will then move to harvest a separate forestry block in the Roding Forest, which is expected to take two to three months to complete.

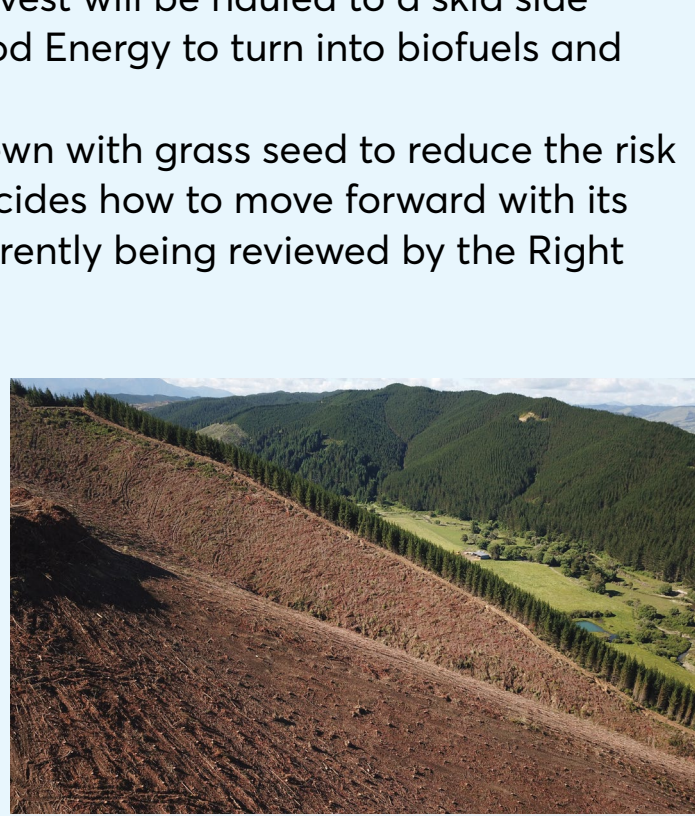
Crews are expected to return to the Marsden Valley Reserve around August or September to finish harvesting operations, although this timeline may change.

Any slash that is caused by the harvest will be hauled to a skid side where it will be carted away by Azwood Energy to turn into biofuels and landscaping products.

Once harvested, the area will be sown with grass seed to reduce the risk of erosion in the area until Council decides how to move forward with its forestry assets, a decision which is currently being reviewed by the Right Tree, Right Place Taskforce.



The new machine can neatly lay down cut trees without them breaking, allowing for a cleaner harvest.



Hitting fast-forward on city centre living

One of the key matters considered in Nelson City Council's Annual Plan consultation document involves bringing forward substantial three waters infrastructure upgrades in the city centre and the Bridge Street Linear Active Transport Corridor by using funding received through central government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund.

Once completed, the upgrades would support the potential development of approximately 1000 homes in Nelson's city centre.

Group Manager Infrastructure Alec Louverdis says Nelson has a housing crisis with a lack of appropriate, affordable housing.

"This significantly impacts community wellbeing and our economy because local businesses struggle to attract staff as they can't find somewhere to live."

Council applied to government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund and was allocated \$36 million in October 2022 following evaluation. This funding is supported by \$32 million already allocated in the Long Term Plan.

Louverdis says this is a one-off opportunity to make transformational change for our city.

"There are many people in Nelson who require secure, affordable housing. They may be older adults looking to downsize, newcomers to the area looking to start work, people with insecure employment or low income, or young people just starting out in life. Providing the infrastructure for up to 1000 extra dwellings in the city centre gives developers the opportunity and certainty to increase housing supply and alleviate some of the pressure on people looking for a place to live."

The infrastructure upgrades will enhance investment for housing and commercial developments and improve resilience to storm events and the effects of climate change.

The project's benefits include:

- Using IAF funds to fast-track major infrastructure upgrades and housing capacity improvements
- Supporting the viability of significant housing developments
- Regenerating our city centre by making our streets busier for longer and more foot traffic on Bridge Street and in the city centre
- Supporting Council's August 2022 severe weather event recovery effort by delivering three waters infrastructure to improve resilience in Nelson's city centre
- Assisting in reducing Nelson's carbon emissions by encouraging active travel (travelling by foot, bicycle, scooter etc).

What is the Bridge Street Linear Active Transport Corridor

The Bridge Street Linear Active Transport Corridor will run between Rutherford and Collingwood Streets and includes:

- A new road layout to promote safe mixed use (for people and different modes of transport)
- Appropriate short-term parking for those who require it
- Access to high quality green public spaces, and a possible new space for families to relax and play.

Opportunities to offset any loss of parking elsewhere in the city will be explored as part of this project.

Cost

Council is proposing to bring forward \$3 million from future years to 2023/24 to facilitate feasibility work, initial design and engagement. \$1.9 million of this cost will be recovered from central government in future years.

What we're proposing in 2023/24

- \$365,000 to begin the design of a water supply ring main from the trunk main on Bridge Street near Tasman Street along Bridge Street, Rutherford Street, Halifax Street and Collingwood Street
- \$125,000 to begin the design of a new stormwater main along Bridge Street and associated green infrastructure, and a new flood gate for the Halifax Street stormwater outfall into Saltwater Creek
- \$435,000 to begin the design of a pump station upgrade around Paru Paru Road and renewal/upgrade on Rutherford Street, Achilles Avenue and Bridge Street wastewater infrastructure
- \$2.1 million to begin the design of the Bridge Street Linear Active Transport Corridor between Rutherford and Collingwood Streets.

Tell us what you think

Do you agree we should be accelerating infrastructure upgrades in the city centre to enable central city living and receive central government funding?

[Visit \[nelson.govt.nz\]\(https://nelson.govt.nz\) to make a submission.](https://nelson.govt.nz)