

QLDC Council**24 March 2015****Report for Agenda Item: 8*****Department:*****Planning and Development****District Plan Review: Natural Hazards****Purpose**

- 1 To present the following proposed District Plan provisions for Council's acceptance:
 - Natural Hazards chapter
 - The accompanying Section 32 Evaluation report.

Recommendation

- 2 *That Council:*
 - a. **Note** the contents of this report and in particular:
 - i. The Resource Management issues associated with the current provisions.
 - ii. The RMA Section 32 evaluations.
 - b. **Agree** to accept the Natural Hazards provisions.
 - c. **Note** that these provisions will be brought back for Council's final approval along with others forming Stage 1 of the District Plan Review, prior to statutory consultation and public notification.
 - d. **Authorise** officers to make further minor changes to the Section 32 Evaluation reports and provisions without further recourse to the Council, where this is necessary to:
 - i. Ensure consistent numbering and formatting of the proposed District Plan text;
 - ii. To fix identified minor errors and / or omissions; and
 - iii. Ensure continuity with other proposed provisions.

Prepared by:

**Matthew Paetz**
District Plan Manager

9/03/2015

Reviewed and Authorised by:

**Marc Bretherton**
General Manager – Planning and Development

9/03/2015

Background

- 1 The provisions within the operative District Plan that address Natural Hazards have been the subject of environmental monitoring which addressed the effectiveness of the Plan.
- 2 The District Plan Review was formally (and legally) commenced by a resolution of Council in April 2014. The Review adopts a changed approach to the structure and philosophy of the District Plan and is led by the Strategic Directions chapter.
- 3 Natural hazards provisions are contained within the 'District Wide Issues' chapter of the Operative District Plan (Chapter 4).
- 4 Natural hazards are given their own chapter in the Proposed District Plan. This reflects the structural approach taken in the District Plan review, but also gives the issue of Natural Hazards the prominence it deserves as a resource management issue.
- 5 The changes to the way the provisions are structured broadly seek to make the Plan more legible, targeted and concise.
- 6 This approach was presented at Council workshops in late 2014. Councillors were circulated draft provisions for feedback in February 2015.
- 7 The resource management issues that are relevant to the various provisions stem from:
 - a. Monitoring and review of the Operative District Plan
 - b. Specific consultation with ORC with regard to natural hazards.
- 8 A full list of the relevant documents that inform the analysis of issues and options considered is contained within the appended section 32 report.
- 9 Guidance for the approach to these evaluations has come from the proposed Strategic Directions Chapter, with the following goals and objectives having relevance to the chapters reviewed:

Goal 2:	<i>The strategic and integrated management of urban growth</i>
Obj. 2:	<i>To manage development in areas affected by natural hazards.</i>

Issues and options considered: Natural Hazards

- 10 The natural hazards issues which were identified and which are addressed through the proposed amendments are:
 - The District is subject to a large number of natural hazards. The District is also one of the fastest growing in the country. A balance must be struck between taking a responsible approach to natural hazard

management and enabling development to respond to population growth.

- In light of the Christchurch earthquakes, growing focus is being given to natural hazard planning. This area is likely to get more attention through the proposed RMA reforms,
- The proposed chapter contains no rules, only objectives and policies, consistent with the Operative District Plan. In order to provide a balanced approach, it is not proposed to automatically trigger a resource consent application for any development occurring in areas subject to natural hazards. Rather, for activities that would generate resource consent applications anyway, natural hazards considerations will be added as a matter for consideration.
- For permitted land use activities, rather than requiring resource consent for minor development proposals, natural hazards will be addressed instead through the Building Act provisions and where appropriate through Section 106 of the RMA where subdivision is occurring.
- Rather than mapping hazards in the District Plan, it is proposed to continue to use Council's database as a repository for data and information on natural hazards. There are two key reasons for this. Firstly, natural hazards maps can be burdensome in terms of District Plan documentation. Secondly, using a database approach more readily responds to evolving understanding of hazards and new information that is generated over time.
- An important part of the proposed approach is emphasising the importance of community awareness and understanding of natural hazards risk, rather than just relying on regulation.

Financial Implications

- 11 There are no budget or cost implications resulting from the decision. The work is accounted for in already approved budgets.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions

- 12 The proposed provisions are considered to be consistent with the LGA purpose provisions (ss10, 11, 11A) summarised as:
- Activity (local democracy, infrastructure, local public services or performance of regulatory functions);
 - Quality (efficient, effective and appropriate to present and future circumstances); and, or
 - Economic (most cost-effective for households and businesses).

Council Policies

- 13 No formal Council Policies are considered relevant.

Consultation

14 Consultation has occurred with ORC.

Publicity

15 No media statement or public communication is required.

Attachments

A Natural Hazards

B Section 32 Evaluation Report – Natural Hazards