

Three Waters

Our vision for Lower Hutt is to create a city where everyone thrives.

To do this, we need to protect and improve our natural environment and grow our city in a way that is sustainable and meets the needs of all of us who call Lower Hutt home. One of the ways we do this is through the District Plan, which sets the rules for how we use land and develop our city.

The District Plan is going through a top-to-bottom review. How do we protect what we love and provide what we need as a city? That's where you come in – feedback on the draft plan is open until 15 December 2023. Following that, we'll have a statutory submission process on a proposed plan in 2024.

From protecting the environment to managing natural hazards and preserving our built heritage, there's a lot to consider. The District Plan is an important document that influences the future of our city, so find out more and have your say!

Find out more at
hutt.city/dpreview

Our stormwater, wastewater and water supply networks are collectively known as Three Waters.

A lot of our Three Waters network is ageing and there are capacity issues throughout the city.

The quality of our urban streams and rivers has degraded, largely due to runoff from hard surfaces and stormwater and wastewater overflows. We need to ensure that future developments do more to address these capacity and water quality issues.

The Three Waters chapter is a new addition to the draft District Plan. However, the current plan already has permeable surface requirements to absorb rainwater, and some of the measures are already being implemented through other regional standards.



How much is changing?



Little

A lot

Understanding our District Plan review

What are we proposing?

- Hydraulic neutrality for new subdivision and development, which means the discharge and flow of stormwater can be no more than the runoff from the site in an undeveloped state. This will involve methods such as installing retention or detention tanks to keep water on-site for longer.
- New houses will need to have rainwater tanks and greywater systems to store and allow for the reuse of water, which will reduce demand on the water and wastewater networks and help to prevent overloading of the stormwater network.
- Water sensitive urban design to manage stormwater runoff in non-residential developments and housing of four or more units, to assist with flood mitigation and improve water quality (see FAQs).
- Treatment of copper and zinc building materials to prevent runoff from these surfaces adding contaminants into the stormwater network.
- At least 30% permeable surface (able to absorb water) when developing a property in the residential zones.

FAQs

Will these requirements increase building costs?

Yes, however some of these are already being required under other standards or through current consenting processes.

What are we doing to protect the aquifer?

The aquifer is an important source of water for the Hutt Valley. The Natural Resources Plan has provisions that control development over the aquifer, with maps showing where earthworks depths are managed. Any development that involves earthworks or piling over the aquifer needs to comply with the relevant rules.

What is water sensitive urban design?

It means designing new developments and subdivisions to manage stormwater in a more natural way – such as ground absorption – rather than relying only on stormwater pipes. This is also known as green infrastructure or low impact design.

We're keen to hear from you

Go to hutt.city/DPSurvey or drop off your submission at any Hutt City Council neighbourhood hub.

HUTT CITY
TE AWA KAIRANGI