

Proposed District Plan Change 14 - Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Policies, Rules and Definitions for Utilities

(Note: this summary is for information. It does not form part of the Proposed District Plan Change)

Section of the District Plan	Item No. in the Plan Change Document	Description of the Change	Purpose of the Change
Utility Rules (Chapter 23) Rule 23.1.2	8	Removes the rule that permits one cable, for new technology, to be added to existing overhead lines without the need for resource consent.	<p>The rule was included in the District Plan to facilitate the entry of a new technology provider into the Wellington market. This aim has been achieved with TelstraClear (formerly Saturn) and other companies establishing networks.</p> <p>New and additional overhead cables / lines can have adverse visual effects. The resource consent process is the most appropriate method to consider these effects.</p>
Utilities Objectives and Policies (Chapter 22) Policy 22.2.1.4	6	Removes the Policy that provides for cables for new technology on existing overhead line networks.	The Policy is no longer appropriate with the removal of the above rule. The District Plan still provides for new technology through the resource consent process.

<p>Utilities – Objective & Policies (Chapter 22)</p> <p>Policy 22.2.1.3</p>	4	<p>Removes the words ‘where appropriate’ from the policy that encourages new networks to be sited underground.</p>	<p>The emphasis has changed to have all new networks sited underground, even when this involves greater cost or difficulty for the utility operator.</p> <p>Policy 22.2.1.2 is retained. It recognises the operational requirements of utility operators in considering resource consent applications.</p>
<p>Utilities Objectives and Policies (Chapter 22)</p> <p>Policy 22.2.1.3 – explanatory statement</p>	5	<p>Removes the part of the explanation that advocates undergrounding where it is both practical and beneficial. Replaces it with text about the need for proposals to go through the resource consent process to ensure control of adverse effects.</p>	<p>The emphasis has changed to have all new networks sited underground.</p>
<p>Utilities Objectives and Policies (Chapter 22)</p> <p>A new Policy 22.2.1.4</p>	7	<p>A new policy encouraging the replacement of existing overhead lines with underground lines.</p>	<p>Existing overhead lines have the legal right to remain above ground. Council will however advocate, to the utility operators, their replacement with undergrounding lines.</p>
<p>Utility Rules (Chapter 23)</p> <p>Explanatory statement that follows Rule 23.1.16</p>	11	<p>Removes a section of the explanatory statement that follows the permitted activity rules. The removed section talked about making special provision for new technology such as cable television.</p>	<p>The District Plan no longer makes special provision for new technology.</p>

Utility Rules (Chapter 23) Rule 23.3.4	12	A new standard and term (if the standard or term is not met an application defaults to a higher category of resource consent). The standard and term is that no new support structure is put up.	
Utility Rules (Chapter 23) Rule 23.3.4	13 & 14	A new assessment criteria for assessing applications for resource consent.	The assessment criterion directs Council to consider the cumulative effects of additional lines on the quality of the surrounding environment.
Utility Rules (Chapter 23) Rule 23.4.2	15	A new assessment criteria for assessing applications for resource consent.	The assessment criterion requires Council to consider the cumulative effects of additional lines on the surrounding environment.
Utility Rules (Chapter 23) A new Rule 23.1.2	9	A new rule that provides for attached lines as a permitted activity.	Lines that are fully attached to a building or structure have little effect on the environment compared to suspended overhead lines.
Definitions (Chapter 3.10)	1	A new definition of 'attached line'.	Lines that are fully attached to a building or structure have little effect on the environment compared to suspended overhead lines.
Definitions (Chapter 3.10)	2	An addition to the definition of 'line' to define 'attached line'.	Lines that are fully attached to a building or structure have little effect on the environment compared to suspended overhead lines.

<p>Utilities Objectives and Policies (Chapter 22)</p> <p>Policy 22.2.1.2 – explanatory statement</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>An addition to the explanation to advise the reader that Council also controls utility structures through a Code of Practice.</p>	<p>To inform utility operator and other readers that consent is required from Council as a land owner, separate from any resource consent required under the District Plan.</p>
<p>Utility Rules (Chapter 23)</p> <p>Rule 23.1.4</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>A new explanation to the follow the rule: explains that Council also controls utility structures through a Code of Practice.</p>	<p>To inform utility operator and other readers that consent is required from Council as a land owner, separate from any resource consent required under the District Plan.</p>