

WELLINGTON CITY DISTRICT PLAN

PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN CHANGE 14 – DEFINITION OF LINE, OVERHEAD LINES, AND ABOVE GROUND UTILITIES

ALTERATIONS TO THE WELLINGTON CITY DISTRICT PLAN

Detailed below are the alterations to the Wellington City District Plan to incorporate changes to the Utilities Rules and the Definitions section.

A. ALTERATIONS TO VOLUME ONE, DEFINITIONS

Chapter 3.10 - 'Definitions'

1. **Add** a new definition of 'attached line' to read:

'ATTACHED LINE: see definition of 'line'.'

2. **Amend** the definition of 'line' by adding the following:

'LINE: as used in Part 23 of the Plan: Utility Rules means a wire or wires or a conductor of any kind (including a fibre optic or other cable) used or intended to be used for telecommunication; or conveyance of electricity and includes any pole, support structure, pole mounted transformer, overhead substation, insulator, casing, minor fixture, tunnel or other equipment or material used or intended to be used for supporting, enclosing, surrounding, or protecting any such wire or conductor; and also includes any part of a line. Any reference to 'overhead line' includes any line above ground. Any reference to 'attached line' is any wire or wires or conductor of any kind, located above ground, that is fully attached to the exterior of a building or structure.'

B. ALTERATIONS TO VOLUME ONE, UTILITIES

Chapter 22 - 'Utilities'

3. **Amend** the explanatory statement to Policy 22.2.1.2 by inserting the following at the end of the last paragraph:

'Council administers this through a Code of Practice for Working on Road outside of the District Plan.'

4. **Amend** Policy 22.2.1.3 to read:

'Encourage new utility networks to be sited underground ~~where appropriate.~~'

5. **Amend** the explanatory statement under Policy 22.2.1.3 to read:

'METHODS

- € Rules
- € Advocacy

Underground utility networks which are operating properly have minimal environmental impacts as they cannot be seen. Underground utilities are therefore Permitted Activities (with the exception of Open Space B and in Conservation Sites where they are discretionary), provided that ground surfaces are restored.

Council acknowledges that locating services underground incurs extra cost and difficulty, particularly in existing urban areas. It will nevertheless ~~advocate undergrounding where this is both practical and beneficial, and believes that priority should be given to highly pedestrianised areas and more sensitive environments, such as Wellington's residential character areas and coastal roads.~~ require resource consent for new utility networks, including new technologies, to control any adverse effects and cumulative effects of utility networks. As undergrounding can be incorporated more easily into new subdivision, it will be required in these areas.

6. **Delete** Policy 22.2.1.4.

7. **Insert** a new Policy 22.2.1.4 to read:

'Encourage existing utility networks to be relocated underground.'

METHOD

- Advocacy

While Council acknowledges that existing above ground utility networks have existing use rights, it recognises that there may be opportunities to relocate such services underground when they are upgraded or replaced. Council will therefore advocate to utility operators, the undergrounding of existing above ground utility services, where this is both practicable and beneficial, and believes that priority should be given to high pedestrianised areas and more sensitive environments, such as Wellington's residential character areas and coastal roads.'

C. ALTERATIONS TO VOLUME ONE, 'UTILITY RULES'

Chapters 22 - 'Utility Rules'

8. **Delete** Rule 23.1.2.

9. **Insert** a new Rule 23.1.2 to read:

'Any attached line is a Permitted Activity.'

10. **Insert** an explanatory statement after Rule 23.1.4 to read:

'The above rule provides for above ground utility structures that are considered to have minor environmental effects, as Permitted Activities. Structures that exceed the size standards and/or are not on legal road in more sensitive areas (Open Space B and C and Conservation Sites) are considered to have potential adverse environmental effects and therefore require consent.'

'Where these utility structures are located on legal road the requirements of Council as landowner will need to be met, subject to any statutory provisions relating to utilities. Council recognises that small utility structures can have a minor effect on streetscape amenity by interfering with pedestrian and vehicle movement and through the accumulation of utility structures in one place. Council addresses these effects through a *Code of Practice for Working on the Road*, outside of the District Plan.'

11. **Delete** the third paragraph of the explanatory statement that follows Rule 23.1.16, as follows:

~~'New technology such as cable television has been specifically provided for, as this cannot claim the benefit of existing use provisions of the Act. Council recognises that such technology is only economic if it can be installed on existing poles or installed in conjunction with an undergrounding programme.'~~

12. **Amend** Rule 23.3.4 by inserting the following additional standard and term before the first paragraph under 'Standards and Terms':

'No new support structure is erected.'

13. **Amend** Rule 23.3.4 by renumbering assessment criteria 23.3.4.8, as 23.3.4.9.

14. **Amend** Rule 23.3.4 by inserting a new assessment criteria 23.3.4.8 to read:

'The cumulative effects of any additional overhead lines on the surrounding environment.'

15. **Insert** a new assessment criteria to Rule 23.4.2.5 to read:

'The cumulative effects of any additional overhead lines on the surrounding environment.'

END