

Background Information

Proposed District Plan Change 22 – Hazard (Fault Line) Area Re-alignment and Rules

The position of the Wellington Fault Hazard (Fault Line) Area on the Planning Maps needs to be changed as a result of new information from the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS). In March 2003 the Council received a report from GNS that showed the position of the Wellington Fault in some areas on the Planning Maps was different to where GNS understood the Fault to be.

The Council has an obligation under the Resource Management Act to ensure the District Plan contains accurate information and appropriate methods to protect the safety of people in hazard areas. Given this, a proposed plan change to respond to the new information from GNS has been approved by the Council.

Summary of Proposed Changes

The Planning Maps have been amended to show the revised Hazard (Fault Line) Area for the Wellington Fault. These maps show a generic hazard zone [the *Hazard (Fault Line) Area*] and an inner zone called the *fault rupture hazard area*. That zone is a narrow zone within which the experts expect the fault to rupture at the surface in a large earthquake centred on that fault.

Changes to the rules in the Hazard (Fault Line) Area are also proposed to provide greater clarity and guidance. Proposed rule changes include:

- Ø Clarification of the explanation to policies for the earthquake hazard
- Ø Amend Permitted Activity condition to replace reference to NZS 4203:1992 with a reference to definitions of light roof and light wall cladding
- Ø Reduce the number of permitted residential units per site to one
- Ø New assessment criteria for discretionary activities, including the requirement to provide geotechnical and engineering reports
- Ø A new rule for assessing multi-unit developments
- Ø A new rule for the Suburban Centre zone as the hazard area did not previously pass through this zone.
- Ø Changes to other hazard rules to maintain consistency across the Plan.

Contact Officers:

Between 6 – 19 September: please contact Brett McKay, District Plan Team Manager on 801 3511 or by email at brett.mckay@wcc.govt.nz

From 22 September: please contact Liz Clark, Policy Advisor on 801 3230 or by email at elizabeth.clark@wcc.govt.nz