

GLOSSARY

**Amenity
(or residential amenity)**

The qualities and attributes that enable people to enjoy living where they do. These may include sunlight, access, visual qualities, noise levels, safety and other qualities.

Character areas

The character of an area derives from those qualities – social, cultural, physical and economic – that distinguish it from its wider surroundings. These may include the presence of old buildings, distinctive streetscapes, significant natural features, important public views, a diversity of uses, and more. The Council has identified the following Character Areas and prepared design guides for each: Courtenay, Cuba, Civic Centre, Thorndon, Mt Victoria North, Newtown suburban centre, Shelly Bay.

Controlled activity

In the District Plan, some permissible activities in some areas are 'controlled' if they relate to specific issues of concern to the Council. The Council must grant consent for such activities, but consent may be subject to conditions – such as complying with Design Guides when building in character areas. Most resource consent applications for controlled activities are non-notified.

Design Guides

These offer general guidance to people wishing to undertake developments/activities of specific kinds (eg multi-unit developments) or in particular locations where the Council has decided such control is warranted. The Design Guides contain standards or criteria against which the controlled elements of proposed developments are assessed during the resource consent process. They do not prescribe specific design solutions. Design Guides are found in Volume 2 of the District Plan.

Designations

A provision made in the District Plan and under the RMA, allowing land to be secured for public works or other projects providing essential services in the city. A designation may be sought by a local authority, a network utility operator (eg telecommunications provider) or a ministry of central government.

**Discretionary activity
(restricted/unrestricted)**

In the District Plan, 'Discretionary' activities require a resource consent, which may or may not be granted. Activities defined as Discretionary (Restricted) relate to some specific issue specified in the Plan. If consent is granted, conditions may only be imposed in relation to that specific issue. Applications can be non-notified. Discretionary Activities (Unrestricted) are activities or uses that fall outside of the Permitted, Controlled or Discretionary (Restricted) categories. If consent is granted, the Council may impose conditions that help to control any aspect of the activity's potential adverse effects. Applications regarding unrestricted discretionary activities may be publicly notified.

Infill subdivision/development

The further subdivision or development of existing sites. The Council encourages such development in residential areas, subject to certain conditions, as a way to help contain Wellington's existing urban area and achieve more intensive development.

Kaitiakitanga

Guardianship of the environment and natural resources. This concept has long been the basis of the Maori approach to environmental management, which predates the colonial period. It is practised in diverse ways, eg maintaining sacred or otherwise important sites, managing fishing grounds, good resource management, and formal and informal environmental protection practices.

Mixed Use

The presence, within a particular area, of a wide range of activities: residential, retail, recreational, commercial, educational, institutional etc.

Multi-unit development

Residential developments containing three (in some cases, two) or more household units on a site. The Council encourages such development as a way to achieve a more compact city. To ensure high standards, new multi-unit developments are defined as Discretionary Activities in the District Plan and require a resource consent

Non-complying activity

An activity that is beyond the scope of Permitted, Controlled or Discretionary Activities. A resource consent may be granted, with conditions, if the Council is satisfied that consent would be consistent with the objectives and policies of the Plan. Consent applications relating to non-complying activities may be publicly notified.

Permitted activity	An activity that can be undertaken as of right (ie without the Council's specific consent) providing it meets any conditions specified in the District Plan. A resource consent is not required for permitted activities.
Resource consent	Permission granted by the Council to an applicant wishing to undertake an activity or development that the District Plan does not define as Permitted. In granting a resource consent, the Council will consider what effects a proposed development will have on the environment, and whether it is consistent with the objectives of the District Plan. Resource consents may be granted with conditions – for example, the Council may require noise levels to be monitored while a construction project is underway
Reverse sensitivity	An increasingly common issue as more mixed use development takes place in the city. It generally occurs when commercial or industrial areas start being used for residential purposes, and residents object to the inevitable effects of non-residential activities nearby – such as noise, smell or traffic.
RMA	The Resource Management Act 1991. The Act's purpose is to promote the sustainable management of New Zealand's natural and physical and resources. Under the Act, all cities and districts are required to have district plans that give effect to the sustainable management principles laid down in the Act.
Sustainable management	As defined in the RMA, this means balancing human needs with the need to protect the natural, physical and built environments and the resources they provide – now and in the future.
Utilities	Essential systems and networks that provide the city with water, energy, communications and sewerage.
Working from home	In the District Plan, this means an occupation, art/craft, business, trade or profession carried out in a residential building by no more than three people. At least one must live there as their main place of residence. Car and engine repair businesses are excluded from this definition.