



**August
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Proposed Plan Change 78 Information Sheet #12

Future Coastal Hazards Plan Change

Coastal hazards such as coastal erosion and coastal inundation are identified as matters of national importance under section 6(h) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) which requires the management of significant risks from natural hazards.

The Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) acknowledges and manages these hazards but relies on information that does not fully align with recently released international studies and projections on the impacts of climate change.

Proposed Plan Change 78 incorporates some of these matters but a future separate plan change will be needed to update the AUP to be more aligned with this information. This information sheet explains this further.

Coastal hazards in the Auckland Unitary Plan

Significant risks from coastal erosion and coastal inundation are currently managed by provisions in AUP Chapters E36 Natural hazards and flooding, E38 Subdivision – urban and E39 Subdivision - rural. The relevant rules rely on definitions of these hazards contained in Chapter J Definitions.

A recent report commissioned by council provides a more up to date assessment of the areas of Auckland’s coastline that are susceptible to coastal instability and erosion (ASCIE)¹. The ASCIE maps show that the current AUP “coastal erosion hazard area” definition underestimates the extent of the hazard area in many cases. The new maps are available in the council’s public map viewer (Geomaps) but are not currently linked to the definition in the AUP.

¹ The report is available at <https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/predicting-auckland-s-exposure-to-coastal-instability-and-erosion/>

The mapping of coastal inundation in the AUP is based on the modelled ‘1 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)’ and ‘1 per cent AEP + 1 metre sea level rise’ scenarios. Recent international and national research now predict that the management of coastal inundation risk should be more aligned with at least a 1.5 metre sea level rise scenario when planning for areas that are potentially affected by coastal hazards over the next 100 years.

Coastal hazards in Proposed Plan Change 78

In accordance with the Policy 4 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) coastal hazards are ‘qualifying matters’. In Proposed Plan Change 78 this translates to a modification of the anticipated intensification in areas where the hazards apply.

The proposed plan change also provides an opportunity for council to incorporate the more recent information available and therefore the recommended response relies on the 1.5 metre sea level rise scenario for coastal inundation and spatially reflects the ASCIE maps despite the inconsistency with the 1m sea level rise inundation area and the ‘coastal erosion hazard area’ definition in the AUP which are used in the existing plan provisions.

In the Proposed Plan Change 78 map viewer all properties within the coastal hazard areas are tagged with blue hatching as shown below.



Coastal Erosion



Coastal Inundation

The coastal hazards maps are marked in the map legend with ‘(i)’. This means they are an ‘information layer’ and not part of the plan change. The re-zoning and height controls that are a response to the coastal hazards maps are part of the plan change.

Proposed Plan Change 78 limits development within the coastal hazard areas in order to avoid increasing the risk of adverse effects on people and property. In addition to the provisions in Chapters E36 and E38, Proposed Plan Change 78 recommends the application of the new Residential - Low Density Residential Zone to all properties currently zoned Residential - Single House Zone in the AUP and that may be susceptible to these hazards.

However, the approach for all other relevant residential zones (and all residential zones within walkable catchments and other areas of intensification in accordance with Policy 3 of the NPS-UD (updated May 2022)) requires further consideration and will be included in the coastal hazards plan change (explained below). This information is included in the property summary box (a pop-up box displayed when a property is clicked on) for the individual properties in the Proposed Plan Change 78 map viewer.

For all non-residential properties within walkable catchments and other areas that are subject to intensification in accordance with Policy 3 of the NPS-UD, Proposed Plan Change 78 applies a Height Variation Control (HVC) to manage risks. By retaining the current height allowed under the AUP rather than enabling additional height risks to people and property can be managed. These HVCs are also marked on the planning maps with heights in metres labelled.

While the proposed plan change provides an opportunity to use more up-to-date information when managing these coastal hazards, there are limits on the scope of the plan change as an intensification planning instrument under the RMA. Updating the other coastal hazards provisions of the AUP will need to be part of a separate plan change as explained below.

Future Coastal Hazards Plan Change

Information relating to coastal hazards has improved as the world is exposed to increasing effects from the impacts of climate change. This evidence has altered the information base and the predictions that were in place when the AUP was notified in 2013. A Coastal Hazards Plan Change will be notified in the future to align the AUP with the most current information available to manage these effects.

The coastal hazard plan change will update the current AUP definition of the 'coastal erosion hazard area' to refer specifically to the new ASCIE information. The plan change will also update the provisions that relate to the current 1 metre sea level rise scenario with an increased sea level rise scenario to reflect the current understanding of sea level rise.

The new information will enable a fuller assessment of the zoning approach to apply to these coastal hazard areas in response to the anticipated intensification required under the RMA and the NPS-UD.

It is important to note that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) recently published interim guidance on the use of new sea level rise predictions². The guidance recommends that changes in land use and redevelopment (intensification) should consider 1.7 metre sea level rise (plus or minus the relevant vertical land movement for the local area). Vertical land movement information is now available on the NZ Sea Rise website³. The website has maps showing the likely rate and direction of vertical land movement for every 2 kilometres of coast. The

² Available at <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/interim-guidance-on-the-use-of-new-sea-level-rise-projections/>

³ Available at <https://www.searise.nz/>.

variation ranges from 5 millimetres of uplift a year to more than 8 millimetres of subsidence a year.

The application of the new guidance in Auckland requires further consideration of how the AUP should take into account varying rates of vertical land movement around the coast, and of how the new guidance should be applied to development scenarios other than intensification.

The timing of the new MfE guidance did not allow enough time to include a zoning response in Proposed Plan Change 78. This means that the guidance will need to be addressed in the future coastal hazards plan change.

Further information

- To learn more about how Auckland Council is planning for growth and development, visit ourauckland.nz/growingtogether
- For detailed information about the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) visit the [Ministry for the Environment website](#).
- For more information on the RMA and the amendments made to it in 2021 including the MDRS requirements [visit the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development website](#).
- For the Ministry for the Environment's guidance to local government on the use of new sea level rise projections visit the [Ministry for the Environment website](#).

Please note:

This information sheet is a summary document to assist with understanding Proposed Plan Change 78 - Intensification, the Council's intensification planning instrument, which gives effect to Policies 3 and 4 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 and incorporates the medium density residential standards into relevant residential zones as required by the Resource Management Act 1991.

The proposed plan change to the Auckland Unitary Plan was publicly notified by Auckland Council on 18 August 2022.

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