

Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

Building and maintaining seawalls



Why do we need seawalls and what effects can they have?

Seawalls are generally built to protect land and structures from coastal erosion. However, they can have significant adverse effects on public access to beaches, natural character and natural coastal processes, because using a seawall to protect one area can make coastal erosion worse in other areas.

Can I build a new seawall or repair/maintain an existing one?

Consent is necessary to build a new seawall under Rule R166. It is permitted to repair and maintain an existing seawall as long as it doesn't increase the length, width or height of the existing seawall and there are other conditions to comply with in Rule R149. New seawalls inside some significant sites are a non-complying activity under Rule R167.

Can I make additions to an existing seawall?

You can make a one small addition to an existing seawall as a controlled activity after the PNRP has been publicly notified (31 July 2015) under Rule R165. See Rule R165 for details about the size requirements for additions and other conditions. Larger additions or alterations to existing seawalls require consent as a discretionary activity under Rule R166.



What is the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region?

The Proposed Natural Resources Plan (the proposed Plan) is a new regional plan designed to integrate the Wellington Region's five existing regional plans-- the [Regional Coastal Plan](#), [Regional Freshwater Plan](#), [Regional Soil Plan](#), [Regional Air Quality Management Plan](#) and [Regional Plan for Discharges to Land](#). Regional plans are developed under the Resource Management Act to set out the objectives, policies and methods for people and organisations that use a region's resources for a variety of purposes:

The proposed Plan was developed following a review of the five existing regional plans from 2011 to 2015. Until the GWRC decides to adopt the proposed Plan, resource users must comply with rules in the proposed Plan and rules in the five existing plans.

There is a lot of information in the proposed Plan and a lot to understand, so if you need help to figure out if your activity is permitted, or requires a resource consent, or if you have any questions at all, please contact us for more information 0800 496 734 or regionalplan@gw.govt.nz

Permitted: no resource consent is required provided you comply with the conditions in the rule.

Controlled, discretionary or non-complying: a resource consent from Wellington Regional Council is required. Conditions may need to be met.

Prohibited: cannot be undertaken at any time.